



United Bible
Societies

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Anchored in the Word



“Since you have accepted Christ Jesus as Lord, live in union with him. Keep your roots deep in him, build your lives on him, and become stronger in your faith, as you were taught. And be filled with thanksgiving.”

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7 (GNT)



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is with deep gratitude that I present the *United Bible Societies Annual Report 2024*, a year marked by faithfulness, perseverance, and purpose. Under the theme “*Anchored in the Word*,” we are reminded of the Apostle Paul’s exhortation in Colossians 2:6–7 to remain rooted in Christ, strengthened in faith, and overflowing with thankfulness. This passage captures the essence of our shared ministry as we strive to see the Word of God reach every person, in every language.

Throughout 2024, our global Fellowship demonstrated continued resilience and unity in mission. Together, we celebrated a special milestone: more than six billion people now have access to the full Bible in their heart language. We witnessed the transformative power of Scripture through projects such as the Olympic outreach in France, which brought the New Testament to athletes and spectators from around the world. We also marked significant Bible Society anniversaries in nations throughout the world, such as Colombia, where the anniversary celebrations were used to launch the first full Bible in an indigenous Colombian language. Internally, we strengthened our unity and collaboration through gatherings such as the Toronto Fellowship Event, which reaffirmed our collective calling. These achievements, and many others, bear witness to the enduring impact of the Bible when faithfully shared.

This year also marked the approval and commencement of the UBSA Strategic Plan, setting a clear course for our shared future. The Plan’s four priorities, Integrated Bible Ministry, Growing the UBS Economy, Deepening Collaboration, and Synchronising the Global Mission Team, serve as a framework to strengthen the Global Mission Team’s service to Bible Societies and to equip the Fellowship for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

We look forward into the future with faithful confidence, anchored in His Word and united in our mission. We trust that the same Spirit who has sustained us thus far will continue to lead us as we seek to bring the Bible to all people.

In Christ,

Rev. Dirk Gevers
UBS Secretary General



Paris Olympic Games 2024

The Power of Faith and Sport Unites
in the New Testament Project

A highlight for nations around the globe during 2024 was the Paris Olympic Games. The Olympics captured the world's attention, all nations eager to cheer on their countrymen and women to sporting success, hoping to see their national flag raised above the podium.

As the world descended on Paris, the French Bible Society (FBS) saw an opportunity to share hope of a different kind with athletes and spectators alike.

This opportunity inspired the idea to develop a special edition New Testament to distribute among the athletes and spectators from all over the world.

Powerful Testimony

The distributed New Testaments were a unique edition created specifically for the Paris Olympics, featuring sixteen testimonies from Olympic and Paralympic athletes who draw inspiration from their biblical faith. Among the distinguished champions contributing to this project were Joël Abati, a French handball champion, and Nicola Olyslagers, an Australian high jumper, representing different Christian faith traditions.

Jonathan Boulet, FBS General Secretary, describes the appeal of this special New Testament edition:

"It is so inspiring to read the athletes' testimonies featured in this special edition of the New Testament. These accounts serve as a powerful reminder of the enduring impact the Bible continues to have in our contemporary world. Moreover, they underscore the vital role that each country's Bible Society plays in ensuring the accessibility and relevance of this timeless book for all."

The title of this special edition - "More Precious than Gold"- is inspired by the verses from 1 Peter 1:7:

"Their purpose is to prove that your faith is genuine. Even gold, which can be destroyed, is tested by fire; and so your faith, which is much more precious than gold, must also be tested so that it may endure. Then you will receive praise and glory and honour on the Day when Jesus Christ is revealed."



Image courtesy of the French Bible Society

Exceeding Ambitious Goals

Like an athlete who achieves a Personal Best, FBS met and exceeded its goal. Originally planning for 100,000 copies in French and 30,000 in English for this project, the organisers had to revise the figures due to overwhelming demand. The revised ambitious goal set for this project was to print and distribute 140,000 copies of the New Testament in French and 60,000 in English.

The distribution phase extended to September 2024, after the Paralympic Games finished. The free copies were distributed by teams from various associations and churches, actively spreading a message of hope during the Paris Games.

FBS distributed over 216,000 New Testaments throughout 2024, including all 200,000 as part of this Olympics project.



Surfing for Christ

FBS also partnered with Christian Surfers France – a community of surfing enthusiasts committed to spreading the message of Jesus Christ to surfers globally – on another project for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

The publishing arm of the French Bible Society – Éditions Bibli'O – worked with *Christian Surfers France*, to release the third edition of “La Bible des Surfeurs”, tailored for the Paris Games.

This Bible, curated for surf enthusiasts, features the New Testament in French and fifteen uplifting testimonies from Christian surfers inspired by Jesus. Approximately 2,000 copies of the 6,500 physical copies were distributed in mainland France and Tahiti during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games – the locations for the Olympic Surfing events.

The testimonies in the latest edition are provided by French and international surfers, both professionals and amateurs:

“I was about to fulfill my aspiration of being on the World Tour when I was suddenly overwhelmed by the presence of God.”

— CJ Hobgood (2001 world surfing champion)

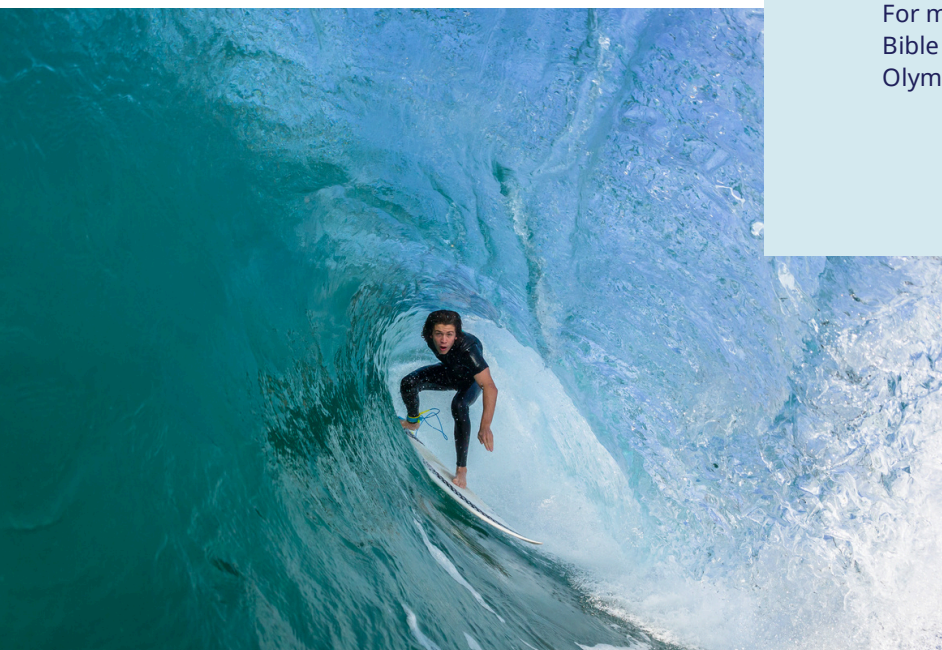
“Throughout every moment of my life, Jesus has consistently provided me with hope and genuine purpose.”

— Bethany Hamilton (professional surfer who survived a shark attack at the age of 13)

“I have been granted the opportunity to bear witness to His marvelous work and power in our lives. Each day, I pray for the salvation and knowledge of Him for all His children.”

— Anne-Cécile Lacoste (2015 bodyboard world champion)

For more information on the French Bible Society's Bible publication and distribution during the Olympics, click [here](#).





Bible Societies Focussed on Egmond Affirmation

Image courtesy of the Canadian Bible Society

At the World Assembly 2023 in Egmond-aan-Zee, the Netherlands, the member Bible Societies of the UBS Fellowship affirmed seven themes as missional priorities. The Egmond Affirmation themes consist of:

- Bible Translation
- Printed Bible Distribution
- Bible Engagement
- Serving Diaspora Communities
- Creation Care
- Digital Transformation
- Mission Resilience

The Bible Societies voted to establish these priorities as crucial to the Bible ministry they are engaged in locally, until they meet again at the next World Assembly in several years.

At the Fellowship Event in Toronto in October 2024 (*more information on page 7*), examples from around the Fellowship were communicated through a series of touch-screen displays, with focused workstreams during the event and with an evaluation tool, the Egmond Affirmation Wheel, used in the event's closing session.

The Egmond Affirmation Themes have provided an opportunity for the Fellowship to learn together, to share from their own context, and experiences and to realise how interconnected the themes are to their everyday work and mission as Bible Societies.



Fellowship Event: Reunited in Toronto 2024

Image courtesy of the Canadian Bible Society

A year on from the World Assembly in 2023, the global Fellowship gathered in Toronto, Canada, in October 2024, for the first UBS Fellowship Event since the COVID-19 pandemic. Hosted by the Canadian Bible Society, 266 participants from 78 Bible Societies came together to reconnect, reflect, and collaborate after years without in-person meetings.

Centred on the themes of Bible Translation, Bible Engagement, Digital Transformation, and Mission Resilience, the five-day programme offered strategic discussions, workshops, and networking opportunities that strengthened relationships and inspired new approaches to shared challenges.

Toronto 2024 also built on the Egmond Affirmation from the World Assembly in 2023, providing space for deeper dialogue and application. Leaders and staff alike engaged in conversations that affirmed the centrality of the Bible, the urgency of digital innovation, and the need for resilience in a rapidly changing world. Each Egmond Affirmation theme had a dedicated workstream where the discussions spanned three sessions, focusing on current practices, integration with broader activities, and future strategies.

Due to issues regarding international travel and visas, it was unfortunate that over 40 Bible Societies were not able to attend the gathering in Toronto. This absence diminished the event, and planning for future gatherings will prioritise this consideration in selecting a location, to ensure as many Bible Societies can attend as possible.

The event was enriched by the warm hospitality of the Canadian Bible Society, whose projects with indigenous and diaspora communities embody the Fellowship's commitment to dignity, inclusion, and cultural identity.

As Elaine Duncan, Chair of the UBS Fellowship Council, reminded us:

“ Making the Bible accessible to everyone in their own language is about more than translation. It is also about restoring dignity and enhancing the self-esteem of individuals and communities.”

You can find a video of highlights from the Fellowship's time together [here](#).

Bible Societies Celebrating Decades-Long Legacies in 2024

Across the world, each and every Bible Society celebrated another year of serving their nation and its communities. In the Philippines, Bolivia, Colombia, Syria, and North Macedonia, Bible Societies celebrated milestone anniversaries which marked decades of ministry service.

Bolivia

The Bolivian Bible Society marked a historic milestone by commemorating its 50th official anniversary as a Christian, cultural, and missionary association on September 3. Today, more than ever, the Bible Society reaffirms its conviction that the Bible changes lives, that its message can transform people, and that it brings salvation and hope to those who need it most. This anniversary is not only a celebration of the past but also a renewed commitment to continue bringing the Word of God to every corner of Bolivia, especially to communities in need. From the time the Bible first arrived in Bolivia back in 1827 to its official registration in 1974, the Bible Society has distributed more than 325 million Scriptures, impacting the lives of millions of people in Bolivia.



Image courtesy of Bolivian Bible Society

North Macedonia

The Macedonian Bible Society celebrated its 30th anniversary on October 24, at the Museum of the Macedonian Struggle for Independence in Skopje. This marked a significant milestone in its mission of bringing the Bible to North Macedonia in its native language. The anniversary also saw the introduction of the newly published New Testament and Psalms, directly translated from the original Greek and Hebrew into modern Macedonian.

Image courtesy of Colombian Bible Society



Colombia

August was a significant month for the Bible cause in Colombia, where the Colombian Bible Society celebrated vital milestones, including its 50th anniversary. This celebration showcased God's faithfulness in the country and included the dedication of the first Bible in an indigenous language, Wayunaiki, with two special events. The first was held on August 9 in Riohacha, where 600 attendees thanked God for the Bible. The second took place on August 10 in Uribe, La Guajira, the indigenous capital of Colombia, attended by nearly 2,000 people. This major event highlighted the progress and impact of years of work to bring God's Word to more people.



Image courtesy of Macedonian Bible Society

Syria

The Bible Society in Syria reached the milestone of 75 years of working for the Bible cause. Despite instability and difficulties, God's faithfulness has helped the team persevere in the good works of the Bible ministry.



Image courtesy of Bible Society in Angola

200 Years of Braille

In addition to celebrating the anniversaries of Bible Society ministry, the UBS Fellowship marked 200 years of Braille, a vital tool for ministering to people who are blind. Between 1824 and 1825, young Louis Braille created the six-dot system of reading and writing for the blind and visually impaired. Two hundred years later, the Braille system enables people with visual disability to read the Bible on their own. This often greatly impacts their lives, and the Bible Societies that engage with this audience.

On November 21, the UBS People with Visual Disability (PVD) Helpdesk hosted two online events to celebrate 200 years of Braille and to recognise UBS Fellowship's role in developing and distributing Scriptures in Braille. As part of the celebrations, the Fellowship honoured the many Bible Societies that have completed or are engaged in Braille translation and distribution projects. The PVD Helpdesk released a resource pack to mark these bicentennial celebrations. Additionally, in April, an internal PVD Resource Hub was launched to provide Bible Societies with access to information on facilitating PVD ministry.



Image courtesy of
Philippine Bible Society


The Philippines

On November 23, the Philippine Bible Society held a special anniversary celebration to mark 125 years of Bible ministry in the Philippines. The event was held at the Philippine Bible Society Tower, located in the capital city of Manila. The programme for these milestone celebrations featured the dedication of the Bible Society's Bible Museum, highlighting "How the Bible Came to Us", and a Bible Parade presenting some published translations of the Bible from the three major islands of the Philippines – carried by Bible Society staff and representatives from partner translation organisations.



Praise God for Bible Society Ministry Legacies

We praise the Lord for the ministry of Bible Societies celebrating important milestones in 2024. Let's keep them in our prayers, asking God to strengthen their team and ministry.



UBS Day of Prayer to Lift Up Bible Societies in War and Political Instability

Image courtesy of Norwegian Bible Society

As the UBS Fellowship, we believe in the power of prayer and petition to our Lord. We regularly gather for times of prayer – to seek God's provision, guidance, and peace. This shared belief in the power of prayer is demonstrated through the following activities:

May 9 - the annual UBS Day of Prayer - is a day for the UBS Fellowship to gather together and intentionally pray for Bible ministry and the world we serve - a powerful expression of unity in Christ. 2024 was no different.

2024 was a year of increased prevalence of violence and war, and the Fellowship felt the imminent need to pray for current and future political leaders. Approximately one in five Bible Societies throughout the UBS Fellowship has recently experienced violence, conflict, and political instability. The 2024 UBS Day of Prayer focused on praying for Bible Societies affected by these circumstances.

Additionally, throughout 2024, approximately half of the world's population was asked to decide on their political leaders. 1 Timothy 2:1-3 was the Biblical inspiration to pray for the political candidates and future leaders.



Image courtesy of Bible Society in Niger



Image courtesy of Bible Society of Ghana



Image courtesy of Philippine Bible Society



Image courtesy of Colombian Bible Society



Image courtesy of Bolivian Bible Society

In 2024, four official prayers were written by four leaders at Bible Societies affected by violence and conflict. A prayer has been composed by:

- Rev. Anatoliy Raychynets (Deputy General Secretary of the Ukrainian Bible Society)
- Magda Victor (General Secretary of the Haitian Bible Society)
- Rev. Khoi Lam Thang (General Secretary of the Bible Society of Myanmar)
- Rev. Ismail Abdulrahman Kanani (General Secretary of the Bible Society in Sudan)

They are accompanied by prayers written by Dr. Cristian Romocea, UBS Head of Member Relations for the Church under Pressure and Rev. Dirk Gevers, UBS General Secretary.

On May 9, Bible Societies and their local support networks worldwide faithfully prayed and shared some highlights from their activities.

Throughout 2024, UBS continued the tradition of hosting Fellowship-wide prayer gatherings on the first Thursday of every month. The sessions were and continue to be held in Spanish, French, and English, offering an opportunity for all staff of Bible Societies to share news from their region and to name prayer requests for which the Fellowship can pray.

2024 Impact of the Fellowship: In Numbers

Bible Translation in 2024

For over 220 years, Bible Societies have been dedicated to making Scripture accessible in people's heart languages. In 2024, this mission achieved a remarkable milestone – over six billion people can now access the entire Bible in the language they understand best.

- More than 6 billion people have access to the full Bible in their language
- Overall Scripture translations – 105 languages for 580 million people
- First translations – 74 languages, including 13 sign languages, for 100 million people
- New translations, revisions and study editions – 32 languages for 480 million people

However, the picture looks different when considering the proportion of languages. Currently, 52% of the world's languages have at least some portion of Scripture, while 48% remain without any biblical text.



Image courtesy of United Bible Societies in Venezuela

Bible Distribution in 2024

A Bible translation cannot change lives unless it reaches the hands and hearts of people. That is why Bible distribution, both in printed and digital formats, is at the heart of the mission of Bible Societies around the world.

In 2024, the UBS Fellowship distributed 150 million printed Scripture texts, consisting of:

- 22.5 million full Bibles;
- 8.6 million New Testaments; and,
- 118.9 million Scripture Portions and Selections.

In 2024, digital Bibles and Scripture texts provided by Bible Societies of the UBS Fellowship were downloaded and accessed in the following quantities:

- 25.9 million Bible Downloads;
- 28.3 billion Chapter Views; and,
- 1.3 billion Audio Plays.

Over the last decade (2015-2024), the UBS Fellowship distributed 2.6 billion print Scripture texts. Included within this total: 276.9 million full Bibles; 102.3 million New Testaments; and 2.2 billion Portions and Selections.



Image courtesy of Colombian Bible Society



Image courtesy of
Finnish Bible Society

Digital Bible Library in 2024

The Digital Bible Library® (DBL) collection consists of texts, audios, sign language videos and braille files from 181 countries around the world. The Bible texts and audio files already part of the library reach over six billion people in their heart language.

In 2024, the following Scriptures were added to the DBL:

- 370 new text entries in 191 new languages;
- 434 new audio entries in 198 new languages;
- 7 new Sign Language entries in 7 Sign Languages; and,
- 7 new Braille entries in 7 languages.

As of December 31, 2024, the DBL collection consisted of:

- 3,782 texts in 2,250 languages;
- 2,927 audio entries in 1,625 languages;
- over 13,000 videos across 51 Sign Language entries in 42 unique Sign Languages; and,
- 66 Braille entries in 51 unique languages.

International Support Programme (ISP) in 2024

In 2024, USD 29.4 million in confirmed grants to Bible Societies were provided through the International Support Programme (ISP).

This was a decrease from the USD 31.4 million in 2023, and a smaller decrease from the USD 30.1 million in 2021. 56.8% of projects were either partially funded or fully funded, 598 and 191, respectively.

600 projects submitted through ISP were unfunded – 43.2% of total projects. Across the Fellowship in 2024, 1,389 projects were submitted through the ISP – a very slight decrease year-by-year since 2020.

**Figures not adjusted for inflation.*



Image courtesy of Bolivian Bible Society

Literacy Support in 2024

Literacy as Bible engagement helps people understand and meditate on the Word of God—a vital resource for transforming families, church communities, and societies. From Africa to Asia, over 60 participants from 27 Bible Societies received literacy training from UBS literacy consultants to continue serving non-literate people, enabling them to read, write, and engage with the Word of God.

In 2024, 33 Bible Societies conducted 40 literacy projects in 90 languages. A total of 22,461 people completed literacy programs throughout the year, comprising 11,019 children, 1,741 men, and 9,701 women.

Strategic Plan Approved and Implementation Begins

As Bible Societies are tirelessly committed to expanding access to the Bible, the UBS Global Mission Team (GMT) strives to serve Bible Societies better. The GMT's sole mission is to support the work of Bible Societies, and through this new Strategic Plan, it seeks to unlock the potential of the Fellowship to unlock the Bible for everyone, everywhere.

A significant consultation period, spanning several phases in 2024, culminated in the Strategic Plan, which aims to build on the strengths and target key improvements for GMT's service to Bible Societies.

Within the Strategic Plan, four overarching priorities were identified:

- Integrated Bible Ministry
- Growing UBS Economy
- Deepening Collaboration
- Synchronising the GMT

Each priority area includes a collection of key initiatives, which an assigned team is responsible for implementing.

Since the UBSA Board of Trustees approved the Strategic Plan in June 2024, the GMT has been working diligently to prepare operational plans, map performance indicators, create a comprehensive budget and forecast, and implement the Plan to ensure it aligns with the strategic goals.

Between late 2024 and early 2025, GMT began consolidating the Strategic Plan goals into a series of smaller, measurable objectives, allowing progress toward the goals to be tracked.



Fellowship Council 2024 in Review

The Fellowship Council is the member-led governing body elected by Member Bible Societies to make decisions on issues that impact the broader Fellowship. The Council plays a vital role in the health and vitality of our Fellowship, providing leadership for our collective missional impact.

Elaine Duncan, Chief Executive Officer of the Scottish Bible Society, is currently the Chair of the Fellowship Council and held this role throughout 2024.

Across 2024, the Fellowship Council met on February 5-6, May 15-16, September 4-5, and November 27-28.

The first meeting of the year, held in-person in February, reaffirmed the Fellowship Council's commitment to keeping the Egmond Affirmation, the shared statement from the 2023 World Assembly, alive within the global network. Two working groups were formed to explore the Fellowship's role in Serving Diaspora Communities and Creation Care, highlighting the Council's focus on mission relevance and global stewardship. Members also reviewed progress on the Strategic Plan, identifying priorities that would guide the Global Mission Team's service to Bible Societies over the next several years. The Council also welcomed the Bible Society in Syria as an Affiliate Member, expressing appreciation for the longstanding support of the Bible Society in Lebanon.

In May and September, the Council convened online to continue discussions on strengthening communication and unity across the Fellowship. Council members explored how to build a clearer understanding of the Fellowship's overall health and resilience and began addressing the important question of how the Fellowship should approach and resolve conflict. The Council also received updates on the development of the Strategic Plan, the work of the newly established Church Relations Advisory Group, and reaffirmed the name of the most recent World Assembly statement as the Egmond Affirmation.

The final meeting of the year, in November, was a time of reflection and thanksgiving. The Council affirmed Integrated Bible Ministry—one of the four priorities of the Strategic Plan—as a unifying framework for understanding the diverse work of Bible Societies. The year concluded with prayer for Bible Societies facing hardship, and the joyful welcome of the Bible Society of Laos as a new Affiliate Member.

Throughout 2024, the Fellowship Council continued to demonstrate the strength of shared governance and the spiritual unity that anchors our Fellowship in God's Word and mission.

In 2025, the Fellowship Council meets on January 29-30 (online), April 7-8 (in person), September 16-17, 2025 (online), and November 25 (online). More information on these meetings will be available in the 2025 Annual Report.

United Bible Societies Finances in 2024



Dear Friends,

As we reflect on our financial journey through 2024, we are reminded of the stability we draw from the Bible as we navigate changing tides in global Bible ministry. Like the wise builder who laid his foundation on the rock (*Matthew 7:24-25*), our organisation remains committed to faithfully stewarding the resources entrusted to us, anchoring every decision in God's Word and the shared mission of bringing the Bible to every heart.

The income available to the Global Mission Team decreased slightly by USD 0.1 million compared to 2023. A more significant challenge emerged in the USD 3.5 million reduction in grant income available. This decline reflects broader financial pressures across the Fellowship as traditional funding pathways evolve.

We have recognised that there is a shift in income available for grants to projects and that there are increasing costs of supporting the current services. Through the UBSA Strategic Plan (*more information on Page 14*), the GMT is working on key initiatives that will help Bible Societies grow financially, and in turn, grow the UBS economy.

This period of reflection has deepened our awareness of the cost of sustaining our shared mission, prompting us to explore new pathways to resource the essential services required by Bible Societies. Yet, even amidst these challenges, we are encouraged by the continued faithfulness of our Bible Societies and external partners. Their prayers, generosity, and strategic investment are critical to our ministry.

As we move forward, anchored in the unchanging Word of God, we remain confident that He who began this good work among us will carry it to completion. It is only through unity in mission, prudent stewardship, and deep trust in God's provision that we can ensure His Word reaches every life that longs for it.

In faithful service,

Andrew Neale

Finance Director
Global Mission Team

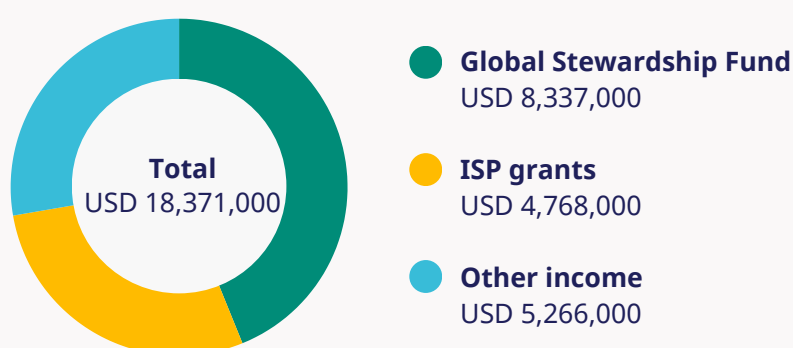
2024 Global Mission Team Income

The Global Mission Team's largest income source continues to be the Global Stewardship Fund (GSF).

Contributions to the GSF for 2024 increased by USD 0.3m, compared to 2023. Member contributions are calculated using metrics applied to their income streams over a three-year period. Therefore, this income is variable in nature and is impacted by various national and global factors.

Income from ISP grants increased by USD 0.13m compared to last year. Other income decreased by USD 0.5m, due to various factors. Grants, donations, and sundry income totalled a combined increase of USD 0.1m, while the exchange gain was significantly lower this year compared to last year.

2024 income: **USD 18,371,000**

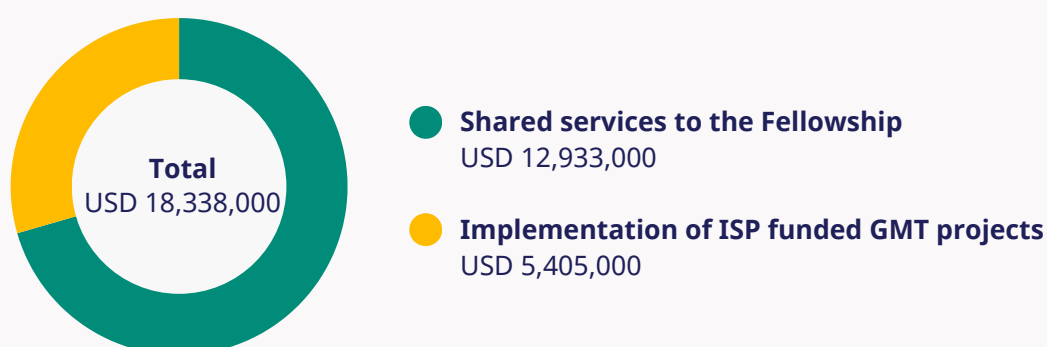


2024 Global Mission Team Expenditure

Investment in shared services saw a marked increase in expenditure of USD 1.8m, compared to 2023. This reflects an investment in the resources and systems necessary to support our current work and strategic initiatives.

During 2024, USD 1.2m was spent on systems, infrastructure, and contractor support delivering projects and support services.

2024 expenditure: **USD 18,338,000**





**United Bible
Societies**

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The UBS Fellowship is an Unincorporated Association of independent Bible Societies worldwide, operating under the governance of the UBS Fellowship Agreement. Its affairs are administered on its behalf by the United Bible Societies Association (UBSA), from its registered office at UBS UK Hub, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon SN5 7PJ, England. UBSA is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales (No. 2264875). Registered charity (No. 800058).