

Press Release

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Bible Society NSW CEO to attend launch of Kriol Bible

The CEO of Bible Society NSW, Rev Daniel Willis, will attend the launch of the Kriol Bible – the first complete Bible to be translated into an Australian indigenous language, on Saturday May 5th in Katherine, Northern Territory.

Also attending are Dr Roger Chilton, former Chairman of Bible Society NSW and now board member, together with other Bible Society staff from across Australia.

“I rejoice with the team who have worked so hard in preparing this translation,” said Daniel. “Their work has meant that the Word of God is now available in the most common indigenous language spoken across the top end of Australia,” he said.

Bible Society in Australia organised the printing of the Kriol Bible, which was completed early this year. “It was wonderful to see the final printed Bible,” said Daniel. “After 27 years in the making, indigenous people across the Territory and parts of Queensland can finally say, ‘God speaks in Kriol’,” he said.

Bible Society NSW announced today that they will fund the recording in Kriol of the Gospel of John. “We wanted to help this project reach even further and our experience is that by recording one of the Gospels, which will be available in a variety of formats, more indigenous people will be able to hear the story of God’s love in their own language,” he said.

The Bible translation from Genesis through to Revelation was undertaken by a group of Aboriginal Christians and missionaries in the Northern Territory with support from organisations such as the Bible Society, Lutheran Bible Translators, The Church Missionary Society of Australia, The Anglican Church Diocese of NT, Australian Society for Indigenous Languages and Wycliffe Bible Translators.

“The translation was a wonderful cooperative effort,” said Daniel. “At times it was thought that it might not be completed, but the Reverend Canon Gumbuli Wurrumara challenged indigenous Kriol speakers in 1993 to complete the project themselves, after it stalled in 1991,” he said.

Whilst there has been some school materials in Kriol, this is the first formal written text in the language and in the same way that Luther and Tyndale’s translations of the Bible formalised German and English, it is believed that this Bible will do the same for the Kriol language

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