

A Brief History

In January of 2006, the American Bible Society (ABS) conducted a pilot of Mission: Literacy with strategic partners throughout the New York area. Three Salvation Army New Jersey Division corps participated: Paterson, New Brunswick and Newark Westside. After documenting significant student improvement, the New Jersey Division enthusiastically recommended this effective program to other corps.

In October of 2006, the American Bible Society offered the New Jersey Division of The Salvation Army a Copyright License Agreement for the children's version of Mission: Literacy. This agreement gave the New Jersey Division royalty-free ownership of Mission: Literacy and the right to print, use and distribute it among Salvation Army sites. ABS granted Mission: Literacy in good faith that the New Jersey Division would "get it to the streets" of the communities where the army already had an established trust with families in need. The result has been a partnership through which ABS supplies the army's foot soldiers with resources to engage people with God's Word.

In April of 2008, The Salvation Army's Eastern Territorial Headquarters administered a generous 3-year grant from the Thomas Lyle Williams Foundation – to be used territory-wide to launch Mission: Literacy programs.

In July 2008, ABS generously funded a second revision and reprinting of the curriculum and the trainings and implementation in Salvation Army corps. It also provided a Mission Manager to facilitate the growth of the partnership into other areas such as Residential Camps, Back to School Back Pack Programs and Emergency Disaster Services. In spring of 2010, in response to the fast spread of Mission: Literacy across the army, ABS funded the third reprint of the curriculum.

In fall of 2011, American Bible Society endorsed the expansion of lesson plans to include an array of additional learning activities, games and crafts. An educator from the Central Territory did the professional writing for this expansion. Additionally, the lesson plans, outcome measures and reporting forms were digitized and put onto the website.

In January of 2016, The American Bible Society signed a Copyright License Agreement with The Salvation Army's, New Jersey Division, giving it royalty-free ownership of the Adult Version of Mission: Literacy. This provided a key tool for use in improving the literacy levels and knowledge of scripture among adults coming to Salvation Army ministries.

In April of 2016, the NJ Division approved the proposal to use the Adult Version of Mission: Literacy as the divisional tool for literacy. Approval was based on the program's alignment with the mission of The Salvation Army and the proven impact of the children's version. Use of the program will expand to Salvation Army Rehabilitation Centers, Pathway of Hope, local ESL classes shelters and more.

American Bible Society has cited the Mission: Literacy partnership in many of its publications including *The Freedom Bible* and the *Good News Translation of the Bible* chosen for its Bicentennial Celebration (2016).