

Bible Society introduces Uganda's first hand-written Bible project

By Mathias Mazinga

In yet another strategy to popularise the reading of the word of God, the Uganda Bible Society has introduced a hand-written Bible, whose verses will be in the original handwriting of individuals.

This is also part of a project to raise funds for the new Bible House.

Each individual who wishes to take part in handwriting a verse of the Bible will be required to pay some money. The handwritten verses will then be collected and bound, to come up with the hand-written Bible.

"Each verse will be written at a fee of sh100,000. Anyone booking a verse in another

book other than the one being written at the moment will contribute sh200,000. We expect to raise at least sh3.1b through the project," Catherine Nakimera, the organisation's church relations officer, said.

According to Nakimera, the hand-written Bible project is intended to among other things, enable Christians to have "the experience of writing the Bible by hand".

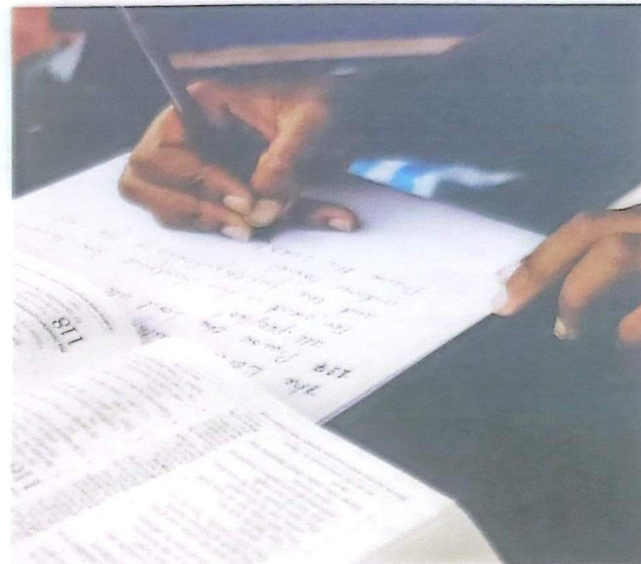
"This must not be seen as an incredible project. The ancient scribes, such as Ezra, who wrote the book of Chronicles, used to write by hand. In those days, if a family wanted to have the word of God in their house, they would invite a scribe to write it for them," Nakimera said.

Joan Logose, the organisation's IT officer, said: "Honestly, we have taken long to introduce a hand-written Bible. Countries such as the US, Philippines and Ghana already have hand-written Bibles.

BETWEEN THE LINES

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We have invited people to come to Bible House, on Plot



A person writing verses of the Bible

38, Bombo Road (Wandegeya) and book a verse that they will write. Many people are already

responding positively.

"The verses will be written by the individuals themselves,

save for those who will request us to help them on account of challenges such as disability, or inadequate literacy. The written verses will then be scanned and laid on PDF. We have opted to start with the book of Mark," Logose said.

The hand-written Bible project will be launched at Bible House in Kampala this Friday, starting at 9:00am.

The function will also be one of the activities to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Uganda Bible Society, which will climax next year.

The event will also mark the beginning of the Bible week, which Christians observe annually.

Further to the function at the Bible House, the hand-written Bible initiative will also be launched concurrently at the society's branches across the country; in Soroti (for Teso region), Fort Portal (Rwenzori region) and Mbarara (for western region).