

# 2023/24 Impact Report

65 Years of  
God's Faithfulness



# A 65-Year Journey

by **Hollie Roberts**  
BSF Executive Director



In 1950, a British missionary sailed from China to San Francisco as the Communist Revolution swept across her beloved city of Shanghai. She wrote:

“As I paced the deck of the freighter, alone with God, I realized that what was considered a life-work was over. Nothing tangible lay ahead. At this time God reminded me of His great faithfulness, and that He is my Father. Somewhere there would be a future, unexpected and more fulfilling, than I could ask or think.”<sup>1</sup>

That missionary was Audrey Wetherell Johnson—the founder of Bible Study Fellowship. Standing alone, Miss Johnson prayed and placed her life in God’s hands.

Decades later, more than 400,000 men, women, and children still benefit from her faith and obedience.

He has faithfully spoken to the hearts of members through lessons, lectures, and group discussions.

He has sustained our leaders for generations, giving direction, wisdom, and compassion as they lead His people week by week.

BSF is more than a Bible study. We are a community committed to magnifying God and maturing His people.

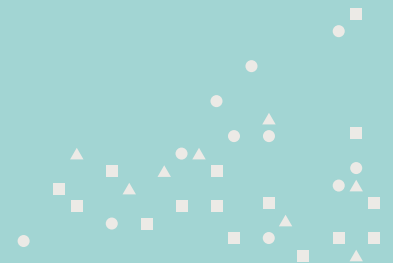
Like Miss Johnson before us, we continue to pray and place BSF’s future in God’s hands. Trusting the Lord as we look ahead, we humbly ask Him to provide a future, unexpected and more fulfilling, than we can ask or think.

Thank you for joining us as we look back to look ahead—celebrating God’s faithfulness for 65 years and humbly anticipating His work for decades to come.

*Hollie*



# Magnify God, Mature His People.



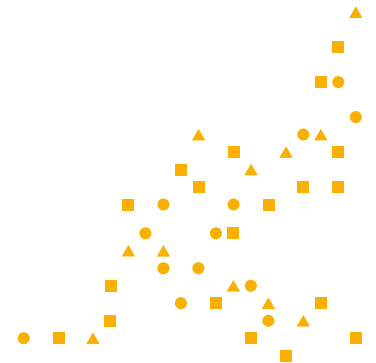
# 65 Years of Magnifying God

In the summer of 1952, five women asked a former missionary, Audrey Wetherell Johnson, to teach them the book of Colossians. From that earliest group, the model for Bible Study Fellowship was born. Those first women were so deeply transformed by the power of God's Word that they shared their experience with anyone who would listen.

Today BSF has expanded worldwide. As our ministry continues to grow, our work remains the same —advancing God's Word one person, one family, one community, and one country at a time.

“When I had the first five women, I did not envision the expansion of the work and all the miracles and changed lives God has brought about through the power of His Word in Bible Study Fellowship classes.”<sup>2</sup>

Audrey Wetherell Johnson  
BSF Founder and Executive Director, 1954-1979





“Coming from a Hindu background, when I first experienced the love and peace of the one true God, I wanted more. Nothing was satisfying my hunger. I wanted to understand the Bible, but it was too complex. Through BSF, I have experienced a deeper understanding of who God really is and His nature. BSF has been life-changing for me.”

**Premila**, Australia



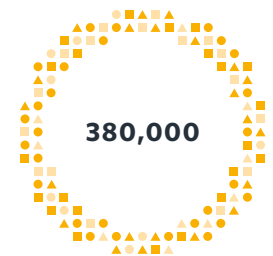
“It became clear to me there was a spiritual vacuum here in the workplace—and a hunger. So I said, let's use the tools God gave us and start a workplace Bible study. In all our WordGo studies, we've learned we can confidently talk about Christ—even in a world that pushes back. We must be loving and considerate. But we can boldly explain the hope we have: We have a living Savior!”

**Matthew**, USA



“BSF transformed my life completely. I've never looked back. BSF has had a great impact in the way I read and interpret the Word. The BSF leaders have been very keen to see that we get to grow and know Christ in a deeper way. A very committed team of leaders. God bless them as well as the entire BSF community all over the world.”

**Margaret**, Kenya



**Adult Members**



**Kids and Students**



**WordGo Downloads**

## Magnifying God in Adversity

Patricia Buhril, India

On May 2, 2023, Patricia Buhril arrived home from her BSF Young Adult Class in Imphal, India.

“We were all so joyful! Next week was going to be Share Day and we were going to have this big fellowship.”

On May 3, everything changed. What began as a student-led demonstration erupted into targeted violence throughout the city. Protests surrounding a decades-long “communal conflict” quickly escalated, leaving hundreds dead and forcing thousands to flee. With little warning, Patricia and her husband escaped the city while their beloved home and BSF host church burned to the ground.

“During the outbreak and the chaos of the riots, somehow God protected our BSF community, not one person was harmed. Our houses and our belongings may have been taken away, but the people were safe. That spoke to God’s protection over us. God provided, even in refugee camps.” For the BSF Imphal Young Adult Class, the events of May 3 separated a close-knit community of young Christians. Many in the class were new believers, still unsure about how to live for Christ.

But through BSF, God’s Word was rooted deeply in their hearts.

“It was like God was preparing us for what was going to happen. We prayed a lot together and God grew our love as we cared for one another. He used this class to help manage the hurt and pain we went through.”

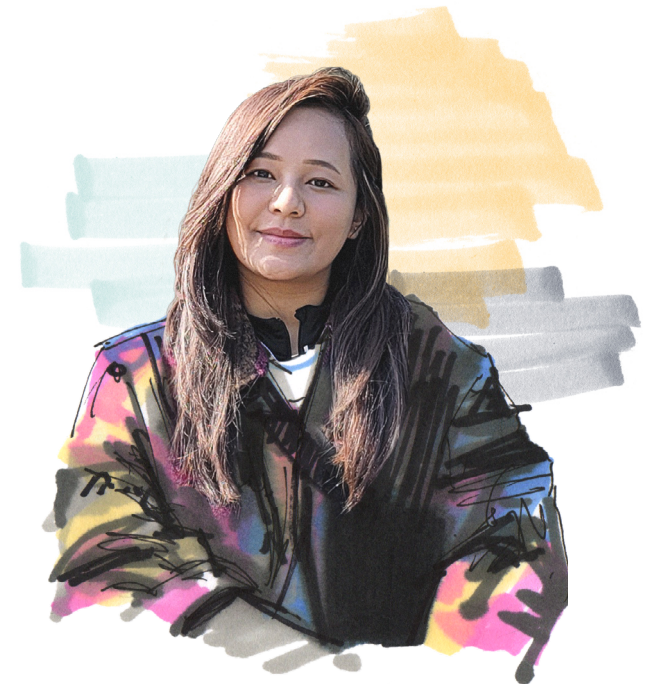
“During the outbreak and the chaos of the riots, somehow God protected our BSF community – the class leaders, the members - not one person was harmed...”

The conflict that ripped Imphal, India, apart drew this young BSF community together. Regardless of ethnicity or tribal background, class members helped one another in the name of Jesus.

The class found a way to meet online. Instead of dwindling, attendance grew. Members boldly advanced God’s Word in refugee camps, shelters, and family homes across India, where less than 2% of the population profess Christianity.

“When members were lacking, leaders would testify of God’s goodness. When the leadership struggled, our members would encourage them, and that would somehow carry us through the week. It makes me emotional, only God can do that.”

Tensions remain high in Imphal as refugees return to the city. Patricia and her BSF class members are slowly putting their lives back together. Through God’s faithfulness, this young adult class is magnifying God through adversity.



1973

BSF holds its first young adult class.

2024

136 young adult classes magnifying God worldwide.

# 65 Years of Maturing God's People

By 1953, what began as a group of five women quickly grew into a class of more than 70 members. With such rapid growth, the class risked losing the deep sense of community and discussion that made the original group so unique. Seeking God's wisdom, seven women gathered to pray in what would become the first BSF Leader's Meeting.

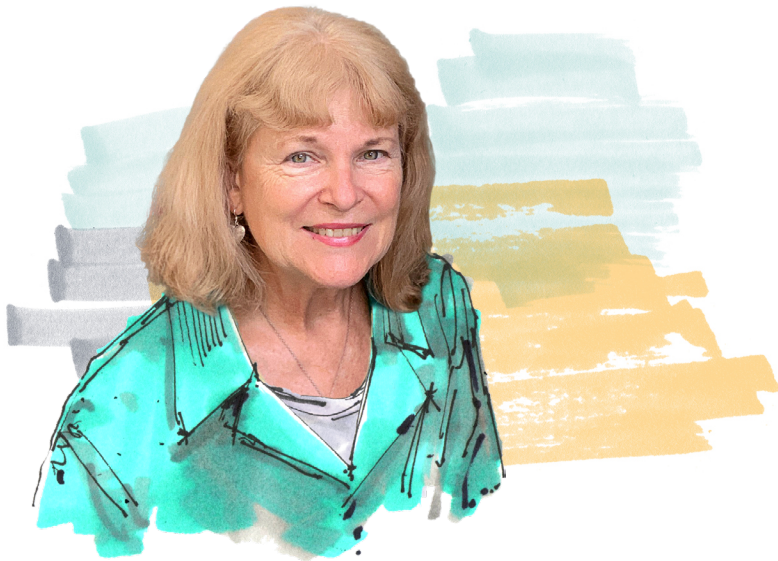
As those early leaders continued to meet, it was evident that BSF was more than just a weekly Bible study. Trained in God's Word, members and leaders were equipped to share their faith.

Today, that legacy continues. As God has grown our ministry, His work through BSF is steadfast—maturing His people one leader and member at time.

“Numbers were never our primary concern —except for the fact that we did want more numbers to hear the truth. So we prayed for our classes, that they would grow in size, because we certainly wanted everyone to get the advantage of the teaching. Excellence is our goal because this is the Lord's work. BSF is not just an organization; it's a tool in the hands of the Lord.”

Rosemary Jensen  
BSF Executive Director, 1980-1999





“I joined BSF when my adopted children were little. I even became a Children’s Leader. It prepared me for teaching Sunday school with my husband for the next five years. Now that we are empty nesters, my husband and I both joined BSF. We can actually share our thoughts about lessons in BSF. It’s been a great blessing.”

**Kathleen, USA**

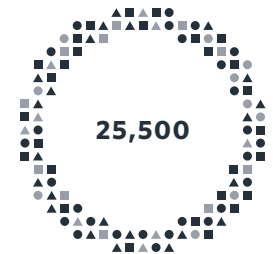


“Through BSF leadership in Jordan, I’ve embarked on a transformative journey of growth, acquiring not only knowledge but also practical skills on how to live as a Christian. This journey has empowered me to step out in faith and effectively communicate God’s truths with boldness and clarity. I feel incredibly blessed to witness God working in and through us, and I’m grateful for BSF’s investment in my spiritual journey. It’s truly a blessing to see how this ministry empowers me and leads me closer to God, aligning my desires with His will.”

**Anoud, Jordan**



**Total Class Volunteers**



**Group Leaders**



**Children’s Leaders**



## Maturing God's People Across Continents

Since early childhood, John Christy understood the importance of church and prayer.

John was committed to Christ, but he had questions. He needed more than a sermon on a Sunday. He needed answers.

On September 10, 2001, John attended his first BSF class.

The next day, on September 11, John's world turned upside down. He watched in horror as two planes deliberately flew into the World Trade Center buildings in New York City. As a professional airline pilot, John's perspective on the attack felt deeply personal.

"Two weeks later, I was in New York City while the buildings were still smoldering. There were white pieces of paper taped to buildings, bus stops, taxi stands, and subway platforms that said, 'Missing' and 'Have you seen this person?' It still makes me emotional. A lot of people were looking for answers. They were asking, 'Is there a God?' 'Where is He?' 'How can I get involved?' It was an amazing time to be starting something like BSF."

For the first time in his Christian faith, John discovered more answers than questions through BSF. While his

knowledge grew, so did his heart to share God's Word with others. Long flights turned into deep discussions about faith and life. His family bonded through the Bible as John and Rachel relied on God each day.

**John discovered more answers than questions through BSF. While his knowledge grew, so did his heart to share God's Word with others.**

Through his career, John was able to attend BSF classes in 17 different countries.

"A guy like me can be on lesson 24 and walk into a class in Sydney, Australia, to discuss answers to questions with guys I've never met before. BSF allows you to be vulnerable with other men in a way you wouldn't be in a weekly Sunday school class or other group setting. Hearts are changed and that doesn't happen at football games or on bowling night."

"It's really all about relationships. Our relationship with God through our relationship with Jesus Christ. Our relationship with other believers, other seekers, and unbelievers. Relationships are important! That's why I say, without 'fellowship' BSF is just Bible study."

As a Children's Leader, John learned how to share the gospel with students. As a Substitute Group Leader, he practiced facilitating deep spiritual conversations. And as a Teaching Leader, he discovered new ways of studying and applying the Bible.

But perhaps the most influential way God used BSF

in John's life was through a simple answer to life's most difficult questions.

"What I've learned through BSF is that Scripture is sufficient."

Like John, BSF members and leaders are equipped to share the hope of Christ worldwide. God is using BSF to mature His people across continents.



**John Christy, USA**

1960  
Men are invited to try the BSF study method.  
2024  
69,901 men studying with BSF worldwide.

# 65 Years of Eternal Impact

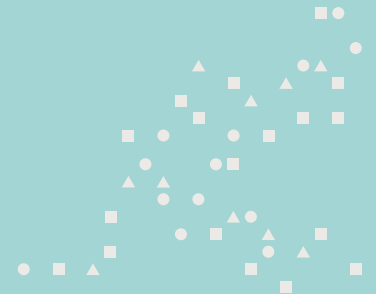


Like that first BSF group decades ago, God’s Word continues to transform His people. Through God’s faithfulness, BSF is making an eternal impact one person, one family, one community, and one country at a time.

1959, BSF applied for incorporation and quickly expanded to new regions in the United States. Ten years later, BSF launched a class in Australia, setting the course for global impact.

“BSF experienced tremendous growth. Not because we were out there beating the bushes; people simply learned about BSF and God drew them to classes. You hear so many stories and realize how many individuals God’s Word is transforming; families are changing and people who are trained in BSF are affecting entire churches.”<sup>3</sup>

Jean Nystrand  
BSF Executive Director, 2000-2008





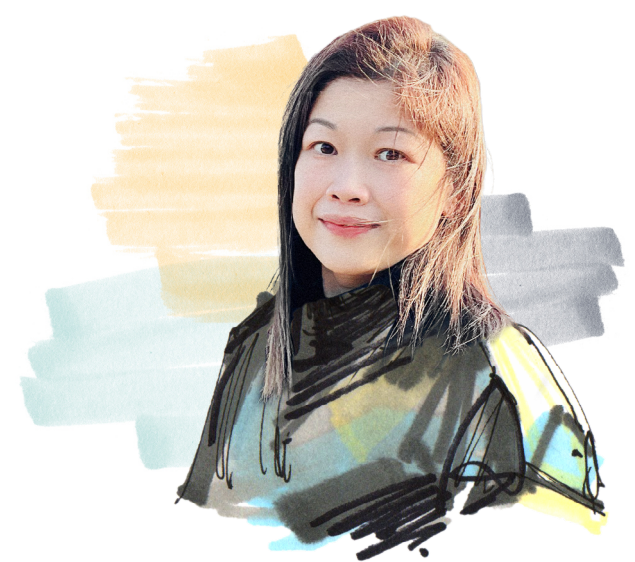
“BSF has provided the tools and environment that have allowed me to share the gospel. BSF is about in-depth study of God’s Word and the four-fold study is very effective and leads me to be in God’s Word daily. I see spiritual maturity with the men in my class as they study God’s Word with BSF. They are learning how to apply God’s Word to their lives, and it is so evident in their changed lives.”

**Josh**, Zimbabwe



“Fourteen years ago, I shared a hospital room with a young grieving mother. I befriended her. Almost a year into the friendship, she asked my husband and I spiritual questions. We gave her a Bible and invited her to investigate Jesus by coming to BSF. She soaked it up! One day driving home from BSF, she committed her life to Jesus. Her partner soon followed. A few months later, my husband baptized them the week before he married them. This couple is now in full-time pastoral ministry and leading others to faith. My friend is now doing the John study for a second time with BSF along with two of her family members who are exploring faith.”

**Fara**, Australia



“I can’t live without God’s Word, especially through the in-depth study in BSF. I have never been so engaged in sharing the gospel with others. I think that I am called and moved to follow the Great Commission. May the Lord God use me. Thanks God, thanks BSF.”

**May**, Macau

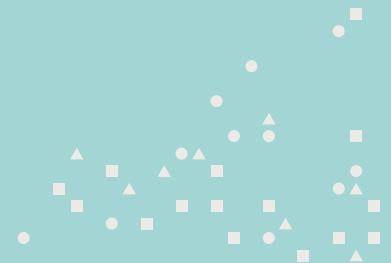
# 65 Years of Growth

From five members in California to more than 400,000 worldwide, God's faithfulness to BSF has been remarkable. Today BSF studies are used in nearly every country worldwide. While we have remained committed to magnifying God and maturing His people, God has expanded our ministry in ways we could never have imagined.



“God has set before us an open door in the twenty-first century, to involve many nations and places in the world. We are praying that as we walk through that door God will use the ministry of BSF so that the name and fame of the Lord Jesus Christ will be renowned in all the earth.”<sup>4</sup>

Susie Rowan  
BSF Executive Director, 2009-2020



## Kids (0-5) and Students (5-17)



1963

BSF Children's Program launches.

2024

31,300 kids studying God's Word.

1996

BSF Students begins.

2024

30,000 students growing in BSF.

## Translated Materials



2012

BSF translates a single lesson into Chinese.

2024

All study materials are available in Simplified and Traditional Chinese, Spanish, and English.

“In 2010, God gifted me with a beautiful baby girl. I found a BSF and enrolled with my then 1-year-old. In 2012, my husband died. I would not have been able to pass through life's storms had the Lord not enabled me to know Him intimately through the in-depth study of His word in BSF. He equipped me to volunteer in different church ministries, lead a small group, share the gospel, go on short-term missions, and guide my only child to Him. Glory be to God. Today my 14-year-old and I are in BSF Online. We praise God and thank Him for BSF.”

Sabina, Australia

“Becoming a Spanish Online Trainer opened the door for an amazing adventure, seeing God at work. It's just God, helping people to have the resources to empower others to read the Word of God in their own language.”

Angelica, USA

## Satellite Discussion Groups



**2015**

BSF pilots the first Satellite Discussion Groups during the Revelation study.

**2024**

112,000 members meeting in Satellite Discussion Groups, including prisons, worldwide.

“I have been blessed to have a group in a maximum-security prison in the U.S. The men have testified that BSF is the best study in the prison. We average 30-35 men each week and have shared more than 50 books—reaching those who cannot attend the meetings. Even when the prison is in lockdown, the men have books and are keeping up with their lessons.”

Wayne, USA

## BSF Online



**2016**

BSF Online begins.

**2024**

39,800 BSF Online members.

“I searched for a Bible study for years and BSF Online came as a blessing for me. I attend a church that has Sunday service that is not in my mother tongue. My sister who is a BSF leader in our country India told me 6 years back that BSF Online is going to open up. Now here I am for 5 years studying the Word. I thirsted for the Word of God very intensely. God blessed me with BSF right in the comfort of my home. I thank God for His amazing grace and peace.”

Shirly, India

## WordGo



2019

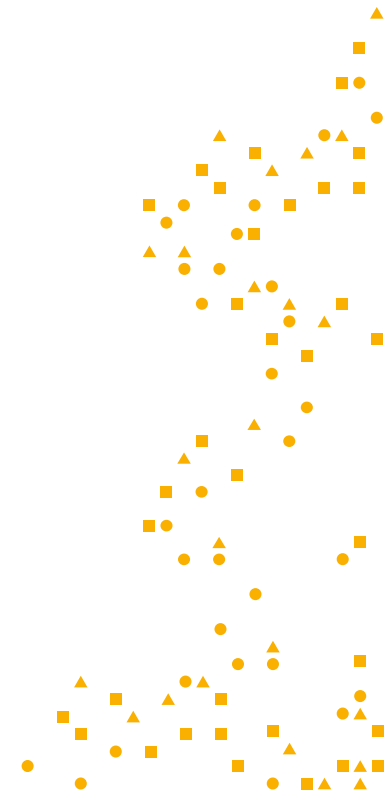
BSF launches the WordGo App.

2024

7,809 WordGo groups meet worldwide.

“Last year I learned that a dear friend received a terminal diagnosis. Our BSF Online group began praying for her, and I invited her to attend. She visited, was intrigued, and stuck around. Then over the summer, we did a couple of the WordGo studies together. She’s accepted Christ and is now a beloved member of our study group. I’m so grateful that BSF provides a way to invite people to check out a loving community with zero commitment. God does the rest!”

Nancy, USA



# 65 Years of Financial Provision

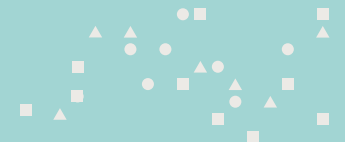
Throughout BSF's history, God has faithfully provided the volunteers, resources, and financial provision needed to sustain the ministry. The 2023 fiscal year was no exception. Again, God used the generosity of His people to reach more individuals, families, communities, and countries for Christ. Whether you have supported BSF in prayer, as a volunteer, or through financial support—God has used you to build our ministry.



“Encouragement came in the fruit of completely changed lives and tireless service of thousands of Teaching Leaders, Discussion Leaders, and Children’s Leaders who dedicate themselves without salary, thus making a team where the glory never goes to one person but to the Lord.”

“The Lord knows all the expenses we must meet, and He sees we have enough to meet them and to allow further expansion.”<sup>5</sup>

Audrey Wetherell Johnson  
BSF Founder





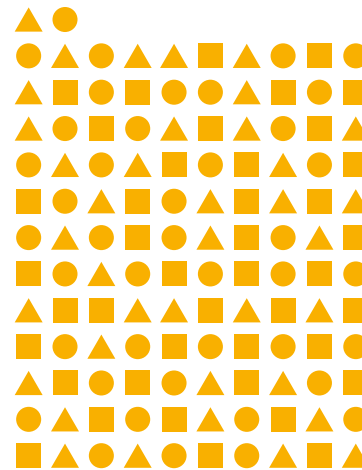
# God's Generosity Through You

To view our annual audit for 2023,  
please click the button to download.

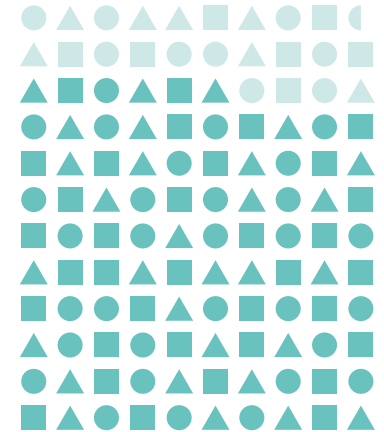
[Annual Audit](#)



**\$2.4 Million**  
Capital Investments



**\$30.7 Million**  
Total Donations



**\$29.7 Million**  
Total Expenses

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● **\$5.8 Million** (19.5%) Administration

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● **\$23.9 Million** Supporting  
global in-depth Bible Studies

## The Next Step in BSF's Journey

by **Hollie Roberts**  
BSF Executive Director

As we look ahead toward BSF's next 65 years, we remember the words of our founder, Audrey Wetherell Johnson, "Somewhere there would be a future, unexpected and more fulfilling, than I could ask or think."

Miss Johnson could never have predicted the amazing ways God would use BSF, but she knew, without a doubt, that God would do more than she could ask or think.

Today we look ahead in BSF with that same faith and expectation. BSF has never operated around a person, a church, a building, or a location. We have fully relied on God's direction and provision.

Considering our current and future ministry needs, we are excited about the next step in BSF's journey. After

much prayer and deliberation, our Board of Directors agreed that it is time to move BSF to a new location in the Dallas/Fort Worth Area. To learn more about our future plans, visit [bsfinternational.org/future-plans/](https://bsfinternational.org/future-plans/).

We hope you will join us in praying for BSF's future, just as thousands have prayed along our 65-year journey. We look back to look ahead, celebrating God's faithfulness in the past and anticipating His work in the future.

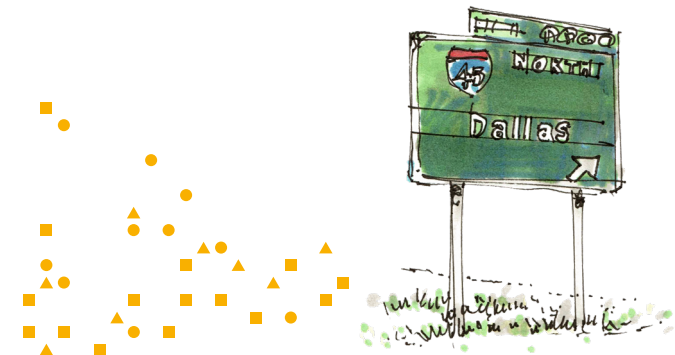
During her tenure as Executive Director, Miss Johnson underlined Psalm 90:17 in her Bible. In the margin she wrote four simple words, "my prayer for BSF."

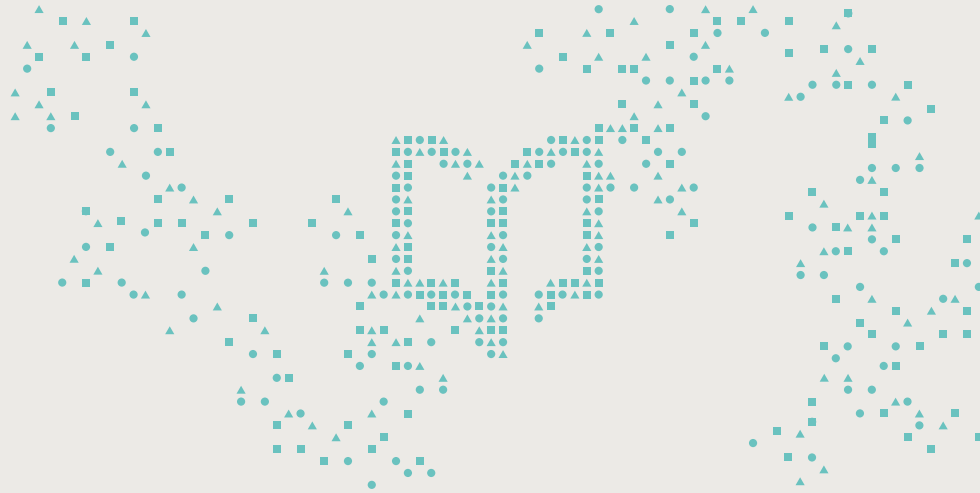
Decades later, we continue to pray that same verse as we rely on God's faithfulness for our next 65 years.

"May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us — yes, establish the work of our hands."

By His grace and for His glory,

*Home*





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<sup>1</sup> A. Wetherell Johnson, *Created for Commitment: The Remarkable Story of the Founder of the Bible Study Fellowship* (Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1982), page 203.

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<sup>2</sup> A. Wetherell Johnson, *Created for Commitment: The Remarkable Story of the Founder of the Bible Study Fellowship* (Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1982), page 328.

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<sup>3</sup> Gregg Lewis, Deborah Shaw Lewis, *True to His Word: The Story of Bible Study Fellowship* (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2010), page 398.

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<sup>4</sup> Gregg Lewis, Deborah Shaw Lewis, *True to His Word: The Story of Bible Study Fellowship* (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2010), page 464.

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<sup>5</sup> A. Wetherell Johnson, *Created for Commitment: The Remarkable Story of the Founder of the Bible Study Fellowship* (Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1982) pages 238, 242.