



His Holiness Pope Francis

Vatican City, 16 February 2023

Your Holiness,

On behalf of the global Fellowship of the United Bible Societies, I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The UBS is an ecumenical organisation committed to working in collaboration with all churches for the advancement of Holy Scripture so that all people may have access to the Word of God in their heart language. To this end, we are in full accord with the aspiration expressed in *Dei Verbum*. We are grateful for the long-standing relationship we have with the Catholic Biblical Federation through the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity. We also look forward to even greater cooperation for we know that our witness of God's love and justice is made stronger when we are united for the sake of the gospel.

I am delighted to share with Your Holiness an example of our collaboration with the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference on a Bible engagement resource for young people – *Identity: Identified*, which we hope will be an encouragement to all youth and to all those who gather in Lisbon for World Youth Day (1-6 August 2023).

UBS has a presence in 156 countries around the world. It is my prayer that as we grow as a Bible fellowship, we will also grow closer to the Catholic Church and to all churches in those countries. Together, God can use us as instruments to make His Word known, to transform individuals, families and societies because we know, as St Paul wrote to the Ephesians, Christ is our peace and has already broken down the dividing wall of hostility. Through Scripture, may God "transform our customary criteria for viewing the world around us", as you exhort in your message for the 56th World Day of Peace.

Thank you for your prayers for the Bible Societies. Please be assured of our continuing prayers for you, for your ministry and for the work of the Church.

In the love and fraternity of Christ,

Dirk Gevers
UBS Secretary General