



## **Common Prayer Canada Daily Prayer Mobile App Development Committee**

Annual Report submitted to the AGM of the PBSC, 27 May 2023

This past year was a productive one with several significant developments completed and in-progress.

### **Adding the French Prayer Book**

After receiving numerous requests over the past two years, we have begun work to add the [1967 Recueil des Prières](#) (RdP) to the app. This is the French-language translation of our 1962 Prayer Book. Since much of the RdP was already available online, our developer was able to copy it into the app quite easily. However, the Psautier (Psalter) was not available in a usable digital format and the process of converting and editing it has proven to be challenging and time consuming, thus delaying the entire project. I am grateful to the volunteers who have worked tirelessly to edit the Psautier and we look forward to adding the fruit of their labours to the app upon completion. For now, in order to proceed to the beta testing phase, we will use the Psautier from the 1910 Louis Segond Bible.

We have received permission from the French Bible Society to access the full text of the 1910 Louis Segond Bible through the [Digital Bible Library](#) (DBL). This classic French Bible translation is often likened to the King James Version. Although the Louis Segond is in the public domain and available online from various sites, the DBL is the best and most reliable source, and it allows us to download the complete biblical text into the app for offline use. We are thankful for the French Bible Society's generosity in allowing us to do this for free. We also hope to add a more contemporary French Bible version.

In addition, we approached the Dean of Montreal, the Very Rev'd Bertrand Olivier, and asked him to translate our new proposed prayer "For Reconciliation with the Jews" into French. He gladly obliged and we are thankful for his support. We hope to add this to the app after the prayer has (we trust) received final assent at General Synod this summer.

The RdP has long been out-of-print and copies are rare finds. This project will make the RdP widely accessible to users for free. We pray that this will be a blessing to French-speaking Anglicans in Canada and beyond, as well as to those from other church traditions looking for a French-language prayer resource. We hope for an initial release this summer.



## Other languages

An Inuk priest in the Diocese of the Arctic is in the process of digitizing the Eastern Arctic Inuktitut BCP thanks to a generous donation from the Ottawa Branch of the PBSC. Currently the only parts of the liturgy available in the app in Inuktitut are those derived directly from the Bible (e.g. Psalms, Lessons, Canticles). Upon completion of this project, the entire liturgy will appear in Inuktitut (including the Collects, Creed, etc.).

Two other Indigenous languages additions are in the planning stages. The newly digitized Inuinnaqtun Prayer Book and New Testament are ready to be added to the app. (Inuinnaqtun is a language spoken in the Central Arctic). We are grateful again to the Canadian Bible Society for offering us these resources. We have also received requests to add various dialects of Cree, but the digitization and editorial work must first be completed by native speakers, as it was with Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun. The Canadian Bible Society has already granted us permission to access their Cree Bible versions whenever we are ready to complete this development. We will need dedicated donations to fund both of these initiatives. Adding a new language to the app costs approximately \$2,500 for development, not including stipends paid to typists for the preparatory digitization and editorial work.

The PBSC is honoured to help provide resources for people to pray in the languages of their own hearts.

## Other developments

This year we added the Penitential Service and the Catechism to the app, in time for Lent. In the future, we would very much like to add audio recordings of musical settings for the Psalms and Canticles – and how wonderful would it be to commission new recordings or compositions of the sung liturgy!

Bug fixes and updates are released regularly. We are thankful to our community of loyal users who regularly submit bug reports and offer encouraging feedback and suggestions for improvement. This project has truly been an effort of *common* prayer.

Sincerely,

Chris Dow