

184 ALEXANDER AVENUE – BIBLE HOUSE (UKRAINIAN CULTURAL CENTRE)
William Bruce, 1912



The British and Foreign Bible Society was organized in England in 1804, to bring the bible to the heathen peoples of the world.

In 1912, this five-storey office building was erected for the Manitoba and Saskatchewan Auxiliary of the Society; it was known as Bible House. Based on the reformation movement of Europe, the work of the Bible Society was to distribute the Word of God for the individual to interpret. It was also seen as an assimilating force in the moulding of the British Empire through the propagation of shared values and Christian ideals.

The Bible Society located deliberately in the North End to do its work among the thousands of new immigrants who had recently come to Canada. Here, among shocking and squalid conditions, the Bible Society worked alongside numerous agencies such as the Children's Aid

Society and J.S. Woodsworth's All People's Mission in an effort to ease the conditions of the poor and establish a solid Christian society.

As conditions changed, the role of the Society also changed and it soon required less space to carry on its work. Parts of the building were rented out until 1949, when the structure was sold to the Ukrainian publishing company of the newspaper **New Pathway**. Various Ukrainian groups kept space in the building until 1977 when Bible House was completely renovated into a museum, gallery and office for a center of Ukrainian culture. The building has been renamed "Oseredok" ("center" in Ukrainian), and its function has gone full circle. The second and third generation of those who were the very target of the Bible Society's endeavours now use the building to strengthen and celebrate their ethnic identity.