



Wow!

Word at Work

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

AUTUMN 2021



PROVIDING CHILDREN IN KENYA
WITH THE BIBLE, PAGES 14-15

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Cover photo shows a child who has received a Bible through the Bible Society of Kenya.



Welcome

Catherine Little
General Secretary, Bible Society NI

I've heard these days of Covid-19 described using a quote from Charles Dickens: these days have felt like 'the best of times and the worst of times'. As an organisation we have experienced great joy as well as a sense of loss too – we miss being able to get out and about to see you our supporters. As we stay in touch with our global colleagues, we are so aware of how much we have to be grateful for, not least our National Health Service and the fantastic roll out of the vaccine.

In this edition of Word at Work we celebrate some of the things which we as a team have been able to achieve here in Northern Ireland in recent times. We have been delighted with how **52** has been picked up and used across our country and beyond. We are looking forward to **Bible Sunday** in the autumn and also to our **2021 Gathering event**. We know that the Gathering will be an important moment for us to reflect back and give thanks for

all that God has done for us, as we meet online again this year. Every year we support a project in the World Day of Prayer focus country – in 2021 it is the island nation of Vanuatu in the South Pacific – you can read about this on page 12. In 2022 the focus for World Day of Prayer all over the world will be England, Wales and Northern Ireland. We will be sharing news of our plans to mark this with you in the next edition of Word at Work, telling you how you can get involved and be part of something special.

The best of times and the worst of times are part of the natural up and down rhythm of life; as Christians we know that God is with us. We see that God is with His people throughout the big story of the Bible and read of Jesus saying to his disciples that 'I am with you always, to the very end of the age' (Matthew 28:20 NIV).

Every blessing,

Catherine Little



Distributing Bibles to children throughout Kenya

Local News

Bible Engagement in a COVID World



It is safe to say that almost 18 months after the beginning of the Coronavirus Pandemic few, if any of us, thought we might still be conducting most things online. Yet, whilst it has been a long year and a half, filled with Zoom meetings and new ways of doing things, the opportunities afforded to us in Bible Society NI to connect with others, hear stories and share those with you, our audience, have been wonderful to step into.

In recent months the team at Bible Society NI have had the immense privilege of conducting some interviews with local Christians, church leaders and organisations on what the Bible means to them, their favourite passages of Scripture, and how they go about engaging with and sharing the Bible in these days.

We have loved hearing from **Pastor Johnny McClaughlin** (Hamilton Road Baptist Church), **Rick Hill** (PCI Discipleship and Leadership Development Officer), and **Dina Katanacho** (Director of the Arab-Israeli Bible Society) as part of our panel discussion on Bible Engagement during Covid-19. Catherine also had the opportunity to interview **Katherine Dickson**, Programme Worker for The Big House Ireland, about their **STEADY** resource, designed to help young people stand firm and full of hope in these uncertain days. And more recently, Andrew sat down with **John Stewart**, one of our Board of Trustee members, as he spoke of his favourite Bible passage and its impact on him during a time of illness.

To check out all of these conversations you can head to our YouTube page (**@Bible Society NI**) where you will find these videos and more content designed to encourage you and help you as you engage with and share the Bible. Please feel free to share them on your social media and with others!

If you would like to feature in one of our podcast episodes – sharing with us what the Bible means to you, or what your favourite verse or passage is and why, or even how your church engages with the Bible get in touch with Andrew today (andrew@biblesocietyni.co.uk). We would love to chat with you, share your story and together, encourage people across Northern Ireland and beyond to read the greatest book ever written, and fall in love with the One behind the greatest story ever told.



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to watch Bible Engagement in a COVID World.

Local News

Summer 2021

This summer the team at Bible Society NI had the privilege of participating in several local Christian conferences. In early July, Andrew joined The Big House Ireland at Summer Madness as they launched their brand-new STEADY resource (more about that on page 6). We were privileged to provide a pre-recorded update on our work at New Horizon, with Catherine sharing how God has provided, blessed us and moved over the past year. Our summer finished with a stand at Bangor Worldwide, as we exhibited and shared with many about our work and the opportunities for Bible Mission in today's world. It was wonderful to connect with people of all ages and backgrounds this summer after missing out on that in 2020.

STEADY

52

The story so far...



Throughout 2021 we have been journeying through the Bible's BIG STORY with the help of our 52 resource. Hundreds of people of all ages and denominations from across Northern Ireland have joined us as we read, study, pray and practise one chapter of the Bible each week! After 28 Old Testament readings, we're excited to be partway through exploring 24 New Testament passages.

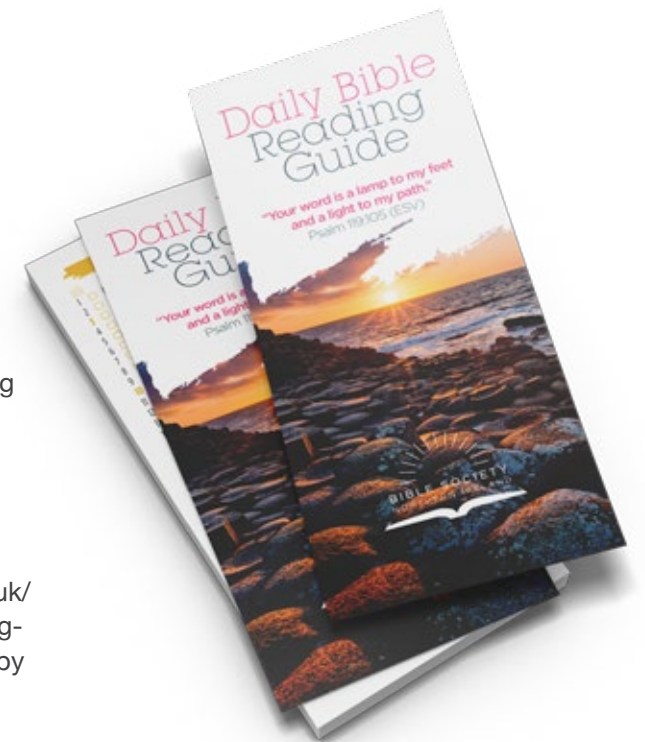
52 has also been a massive blessing in Poland, where our colleague Konrad has told us how the resource has been great in helping young people from mainly evangelical churches to read their Bibles! We look forward to completing 52 at the end 2021 and making it widely available in print in 2022. To check out 52, and to start reading today visit: www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/52

Daily Bible Reading Guide

At Bible Society NI we understand how important it is to read the Bible every day. Each year we offer Daily Bible Reading Guides free to individuals and churches as a means of encouraging this daily reading habit; and we have been so encouraged to hear the stories of how helpful they have been to many of you.

Our 2022 Daily Bible Reading Guides are now available to pre-order for free from our office or from our website.

Call us on 02890 326577 or visit www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/resources/daily-bible-reading-guide to order your 2022 copy today!



A Thrill of Hope

The Christmas season is one of the busiest times of the year. But it is also a season of reflection and preparation as we look forward to that special day on 25th December, when we remember and celebrate the wonder of Jesus arrival into our own humanity. Our Advent Devotional "A Thrill of Hope" begins on 1st December until Christmas Day, and it is our hope that the brief readings, thoughts and more will help to deepen your adoration of Jesus and keep him at the centre of your celebrations.

To download your free copy, visit our website at www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/a-thrill-of-hope or get in touch with us on 02890 326577 to find out about obtaining hard copies for you and your church.

“It is our hope that the brief readings, thoughts and more will help to deepen your adoration of Jesus and keep him at the centre of your celebrations.”



The Gathering

Over the past two years we have enjoyed hosting our annual supporters' event – The Gathering. With many of you joining us in person in 2019, and online in 2020, it has been wonderful to be able to share about our work in this way, as we have heard from some of our colleagues within our UBS Global Fellowship and highlighted how God has continued to move and transform lives around the world, despite the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

This Autumn we are thrilled to again be hosting The Gathering on **Friday 12th November from 7:30-9pm** – save the date today! Like 2020, this event will feature a variety of guest contributors from within our Global Fellowship, including **Elaine Duncan**, Chair of the United Bible Societies Global Council, as well as local church leaders. Don't miss the opportunity to hear from them, as well as our team in Northern Ireland, of how God's Word is at work in 2021! Keep an eye to our website and social media @biblesocietyni for more details closer to the time.

Bible Sunday 2021

Each year at Bible Society NI we love to celebrate the incredible gift of God's Word on Bible Sunday! This year Bible Sunday will take place on Sunday 24th October and we want to invite you to join with us as we give thanks for the Bible.

To help you and your church/ small group do that, we have created an inspirational pack of free biblical resources featuring

a prayer, Bible reading, all-age talk, stories, statistics and more for you and your church to use as part of your Sunday service. Each of these things is centred around the theme of *The Great Invitation*, based on Isaiah 55:1-11.

These resources will be available to download online. Simply visit www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/resources/bible-sunday and enter your email address.



STEADY

STANDING FIRM IN THE BIBLE

“STEADY is an engaging, well thought through resource with great Biblical insight that helps young (and not so young!) people, grow steadier cores to find balance in what can be turbulent times.”

Chap Clark, Lead Pastor and Affiliate Professor of Youth, Family and Culture, Fuller Theological Seminary, California.

Difficult days can and will happen to anyone, including our young people. We at the Bible Society, know that lots of hard and challenging things occur every day to unsteady us, as well as the young people in our families, youth groups, churches and communities. Illness, family change, low mental health, identity crises, bereavement, peer pressure, concerns about the future and bullying to name just a few. Add into the mix the consequences of living amid a global pandemic and the reality of upheaval, change, and uncertainty of the future can make any of us feel shaken.

As part of their Big Conversation Survey, Barnardo's asked 4,000 young people in the UK how Covid-19 had affected them; 41% said they felt lonelier than before, 38% said they felt more worried, 37% said they felt sadder, 34% said they felt more stressed and 33% said they have more trouble sleeping. Similarly in Ireland, Childline received 70,000 calls and messages from young people during the first three months of lockdown, with domestic abuse, self-harm, suicide and Covid-19 anxiety highlighted as the most common issues raised. We can look

past these bleak statistics and think about the faces of our own young people in our youth groups and communities. In a world that currently feels so UNSTEADY, as followers of Christ we collectively share a heart to equip our young people with the hope and the tools to live life STEADY. How can we do this?

STEADY?

We are delighted to partner with The Big House, to produce a brand-new resource for young people to help them develop and increase their steadiness in their day-to-day life – no matter what may be happening in their lives now, or in the future. The Big House exists to share God's love with young people, on their good days, as well as their bad. Believing that all young people are precious and deeply loved by God, no matter who they are, where they are from, or what difficulty they may be facing. Within this current Covid landscape, they stand on the biblical promises that our God is STEADY; and with His hope alongside the practical help of others, together we believe our young people can be STEADY too.

the
Big House
Ireland



What is STEADY?

“It might look easy but finding your balance – being steady - is tricky! It takes some practice.”

STEADY has been designed to help all young people find their balance in life – no matter what is happening right now, or in the future.

The STEADY book is packed full of practical exercises, biblical reflections, and stories to help young people strengthen their core (their mind, heart, and soul) and access God's constant steadiness in their day-to-day life. Through helpful tips and an exploration of God's hope, STEADY will help your young people find balance in their everyday. It can be used individually, or as part of a small group or youth fellowship programme.

For more information about STEADY, and the work of The Big House, visit their website www.thebighouse.org.uk.

Please join us as we pray for every Bible Society and their work throughout this year.

Terms & Abbreviations

FCBH: Faith Comes by Hearing - A programme providing audio Scripture for listening groups, set up mainly through local churches.

Trauma Healing: Bible-based counselling for survivors of traumas such as epidemics, disasters or war.

Good Samaritan Project: A Bible-based HIV/AIDS education programme. Workshop based, multi-media training.

OT/NT: Old/New Testament. **GS:** General Secretary. **CEO:** Chief Executive Officer.

3-9 OCT

Tajikistan Pray for the ongoing revision of the Tajik Bible, that it would be beneficial to Tajik Christians. Pray for Trauma Healing programmes across the country and for those who participate in them. Pray for the work among children and young people, as well as for continued good relationships with local churches. The work here is led by GS Rev Shuhratjon Nigmatov.

Uzbekistan Pray for the Bible Society here as they seek to promote and advocate for the Bible. Pray for the distribution of Bibles, including large print and children's Bibles. Ask God to bless online work, that their website would be a place where people can connect with God's Word. Pray for Executive Director Alexander Kim as he leads the staff team here.

Niger Pray for the impact COVID-19 has had on Niger. Pray that the Bible Society here would be able to support people and point them to Christ during these difficult times. Ask God to bless those who participate in literacy programmes and Faith Comes By Hearing projects. Pray for Executive Secretary Yaye Hama and his team as they carry out the work here.

10-16 OCT

Nigeria Pray for Trauma Healing programmes in Nigeria. Pray for Translation projects going on here, for the translators, proof-readers and publishers. Pray for protection against extremist groups, and that God would use the Bible to positively impact Nigeria. Pray for the team and for their safety as they work to make God's Word available to all.

Sudan Pray for the first translations of the Bible into many native languages. Pray for the work among children and young people, as well as those who have been through trauma. Pray that the Bible Society here would continue to have good relationships with, and be able to support, local churches. The work here is led by Executive Secretary Ismail Kanani.

South Sudan There are currently several revisions of translations going on in South Sudan. Pray for those translating these, that God would give them wisdom as they update the language used for modern audiences. Remember GS Edward Kajivora, his staff, volunteers and Board. Pray especially for the staff members who have been badly affected by months of fighting in Sudan.

17-23 OCT

Estonia Pray for the Estonian Bible Society as they seek to advocate for the Bible in their country. Pray for good encounters with the local church and secular society, that they would be beneficial to sharing the Gospel. Pray for the revision of the Bible into modern Estonian as they work on the Old Testament. The Estonian Bible Society is led by GS Jaan Bärenson.

Latvia COVID-19 and restrictions have greatly impacted the Latvian Bible Society; please ask God to help them recover from this trying time. Pray that He will sustain them and that they would be able to continue their vital work sharing the Bible. Pray for the modern Latvian translation and for the new website being designed. The team here is led by GS Valdis Teraudkalns.

Lithuania Ask God to continue to bless the translation of the Bible into Lithuanian Sign Language, and also for the new translation of the written Lithuanian Bible. Pray for the work among children and young people in schools and through media projects. Pray for Executive Director Vilhelmina Kalinauskiene, her staff team and Board.

24 - 30 OCT

Norway Pray for continued good relationships with local churches, and that the Bible Society would be a good support to local churches and Christians. Praise God for the recent completion of the Bible into North Sami; ask God to bless this translation and that those who read it would grow in their faith. Pray for GS Paul Wirgenes and his team as they carry out these projects in their country.

Iceland Pray for the Bible Society here as they continue to advocate for and promote the Bible. Pray for the local church as they reach out to their community with the Gospel. The work here is led by President Agnes Sigurdardottir; pray for her and her staff team. Pray for them as they publish, distribute and encourage the reading of the Bible.

Faroe Islands Pray for this small community of islands as the Faroese Bible Society shares God's Word and supports the local church. Pray that they would be able to make the Bible available to the Faroese people across all ages and abilities. Remember GS Gunnar Nattestad and his staff team as they work to promote the Bible in the Faroe Islands.

BIBLE-A-MONTH PROJECT OCTOBER: ARAB ISRAELI

The Arab Israeli Bible Society provides Arabic Bibles and many other resources to the 1.7 million Arab citizens of Israel. They describe themselves as a “double minority” as they live among a Muslim majority within the state of Israel which has a Jewish majority. Their aim is to provide culturally relevant tools to the Christian community to help them engage with the Bible. The Arab Israeli Bible Society works closely with local churches to provide leadership training as well as advocating for the Bible. Most importantly, they provide Arabic Bibles, which can be hard to come by in this area.

- + Pray that God would continue to lead the Arab Israeli Bible Society and they would continue to share God's Word in a meaningful way.
- + Pray for safety as they share God's Word and that people would receive it positively.
- + Pray for the Muslim population, that God would speak through the Bible Society to them.

POW!
Prayer at Work
PULL OUT AND KEEP PRAYER GUIDE
AUTUMN 2021



31 OCT -6 NOV

7-13 NOV

14-20 NOV

21-27 NOV

28 NOV - 4 DEC

5-11 DEC

12-18 DEC

19-25 DEC

South Africa

Pray for projects which share the Word of God with children and young people. Pray for work among prisoners, helping them through a Bible-based programme. Pray for the first translations of the Bible into the !Xun and Khwedam languages. Remember CEO Dirk Gevers and his team as they work to promote the Bible in South Africa.

Lesotho

Lesotho has been greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Praise God for His protection and provision through the UBS Solidarity Fund, and that He would continue to sustain their work. Pray for the SiPhithi Oral Bible translation and those who will benefit from hearing the Word of God in their own language. The work here is led by GS Napo Mosito.

Eswatini (Swaziland)

Pray for the SiSwati Study Bible, that it would help many to grow in their faith and understanding of the Bible. Pray for the various projects working with children and young people. Pray that God would reach more people with the Gospel through sports projects and accessible Bible translations. GS Ngcebo Mbuli leads the Bible Society here.

France

Pray for the French Bible Society as they advocate for the Bible and support the church. Pray for continued good relationships with the local church. Pray for the Hebrew and Greek scholarly editions for theology students. Pray that these will bless the theology students, and all who will benefit from their ministry. The work here is led by GS Jonathan Boulet.

Spain

Pray for the Bible Society of Spain as they witness to the people of their country. Pray for work among children and young people, helping them to engage more with their Bible. Ask that God would bless outreach work, and that many would come to faith in Christ. Pray also for GS Luis Fajardo and his staff team as they lead the work here.

Portugal

Praise God for the exciting new digital strategy that the Bible Society of Portugal is implementing. Pray for those who are turning to online media to find out more about the Bible, and that they would be able to find the answers they are looking for online. Executive Director Miguel Jerónimo leads the work here.

Gambia

Ask God to help those who have been hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. Pray that the Bible Society in Gambia would be a support to them and would show them God's love. Pray for the Faith Comes By Hearing project and all those who it will impact. The Bible Society here is led by CEO Michael Ellis.

Guinea

There are many literacy projects going on around Guinea; ask that God would speak to people through His Word as they learn to read. Pray for translation projects, including the Toma Bible, and for those Christians who are patiently waiting to read the Word of God in their own language. Pray for Executive Secretary Robert Iffono and his team.

Senegal

Pray for ongoing literacy projects, especially those among women and young girls in Senegal. Pray for Trauma Healing programmes, and for the translation of the New Testament into Mandjk. Pray for the Bible Society in Senegal as they advocate for and promote Bible engagement. Remember Executive Secretary Tendeng Victor and the team here.

The Gulf

The Bible Society in the Gulf works alongside thousands of migrants to enable them to have access to Scriptures. Ask God to bless this work as they reach out to many people from different cultures. Pray for the distribution of the Gospel of John at the FIFA World Cup being held in Qatar in 2022. The work here is led by GS Hrayr Jebejian.

Iraq

It is very hard to be a Christian in Iraq. Pray for the Bible Society as they seek to support the persecuted church, providing Scripture which is often hard to come by. Ask God that the Bible Society would be a good witness to the people of Iraq. Pray for the Bible Society staff as they seek to provide God's Word in difficult circumstances.

Iran (In Diaspora)

Pray for the Persian Bible revision, as translators work to make the Bible accessible to modern readers. Pray for the distribution of Scripture among young people and children, that this would positively impact the lives of many. The work here is led by Executive Director Nahid Sepehrifard from America; please remember her and her staff.

Japan

Pray for the team working on the Bible translation into Japanese sign language and for all those who are waiting to understand the Bible in their primary language. Pray for the distribution of the Bible in Japan. Pray for GS Kiyoshi Gushiken and the rest of the team as they carry out these projects.

Korea

Pray for the Korean Bible Society, based in South Korea, as they seek to share the Bible in Korea. Pray that the Christians in Korea would be a good witness to their communities. Pray for Christians in North Korea, that God would protect them and would continue to grow His church. The work here is led by GS Jae Min Ho.

Taiwan

Pray for the new Study Bible which is under development, and that this would be beneficial to those who wish to study or minister to other Christians. Pray for two first time translations of the Bible into Pinuyumayan and Tsou, and for those who eagerly await the translations. Pray for the staff team here led by GS Daniel Cheng.

Kazakhstan

Pray for the new translation of the Kazakh Bible. Ask God to bless the Bible Society work here and that they would be a good support to the church and local Christians. Pray for work among families, helping them to engage with the Bible. Pray for the Bible Society staff, led by Executive Director Viktor Grishko.

Kyrgyzstan

Pray for the Old Testament translation of the Bible into Kyrgyz. Pray for the "Discovering the Bible" project which seeks to help children and young people engage with the Bible. Pray for trauma healing programmes and all who are involved in them. Pray for Executive Secretary Roman Fedyanin and his team of staff and volunteers.

Mongolia

Praise God for the progress of the "Sign of Love" project, which seeks to make the Bible accessible to those who are deaf. Pray for the Mongolian Braille Bible translation, and for the work promoting it. Ask God to bless the work among people who have a disability here. Remember Executive Director Bayarmagnai Bayardalai as he leads the team here.

Laos

Pray for the work distributing scriptures to the poor and minorities in rural Laos. Pray for the Learning through Literacy programme, which teaches people to read through a Bible based programme. Remember also the development of the Lao Study Bible. Pray for the team here led by Executive Director Pairanya Sahassawas.

Myanmar

There are many translation projects going on in Myanmar, including the Falam Chin, Lautu China and Zaiwa first translations. Pray for all translation work going on here, and for those who are waiting to hear and understand God's voice in their own language. The work here is led by GS Khoi Lam Thang.

Sri Lanka

Praise God for the work going on here to make the Bible accessible to all people. Pray for the Sri Lankan sign language translation team as they work, and for those who are distributing Braille Bibles in schools. Remember also the "Healing Wounds of Trauma" project. The work here is led by GS Priyantha Wijegoonawardena.

Madagascar

Pray for the Malagasy Study Bible and its translators as it is being completed. Pray for Bible distribution in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is hoped that these Bibles will speak into peoples lives and point them towards Christ. Remember GS Fabrice Rabenjarisolo and his team as they carry out these projects.

Mauritius

Pray continued good relationships with the local church and other Christian organisations. Pray that the Bible Society here would be a good support to local Christians, providing them with accessible scripture and resources to help them grow in their faith. Pray for the team here led by acting GS Claudette Lebrasse.

Seychelles

Please pray for the trauma healing programme which works alongside women and children who have experienced hardship in their lives. Pray that this project will teach them about their worth in Christ Jesus. Pray that God would bless evangelism efforts in the Seychelles. The work here is led by Executive Secretary Margaret Maillet.

“ It is very hard to be a Christian in Iraq. Pray for the Bible Society as they seek to support the persecuted church, providing Scripture which is often hard to come by. ”

Iraq

There isn't a Bible Society in Afghanistan, but we ask you to continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in this country. Pray for their protection and that God would strengthen them in these difficult times.

BIBLE-A-MONTH PROJECT NOVEMBER: CHINA

The Bible is a vital part of any Christian's walk with God, yet so many Christians in China do not have a copy of their own. Many cannot afford one or have nowhere to purchase one. People in China are known to copy pages of the Bible by hand just so they can have their own portion of the Bible.

The China Partnership has been working with the Amity Printing Company to provide free or affordable Bibles to those who need them. We support this project by helping to provide the special Bible paper required to print these Bibles. Despite the obvious challenges faced over the last year, the China Partnership has continued to provide God's Word

- + Pray that the team would be able to meet the demand for Bibles in China.
- + Pray that the authorities would continue to allow Bibles to be printed and distributed.
- + Pray that many would come to faith through reading the Bible.

BIBLE-A-MONTH PROJECT DECEMBER: MACEDONIA

The Bible Society of Macedonia has seen a need among the young people of their country. There are many individuals, including orphans and those from disadvantaged backgrounds, who cannot afford their own copy of the Bible.

The Bible Society of Macedonia work closely with churches in order to provide young people with the Bible. Many youth groups all over the country are very interested in studying the Bible but cannot afford to provide them. The Bible Society of Macedonia is working to provide these young people with their own copy of the Scriptures.

- + Pray for the young people who have received Bibles from this project, that they would give their lives to Christ.
- + Praise God that distribution of Scripture has been able to continue online with COVID-19 restrictions.
- + Pray that this project would nurture a culture of Bible engagement among the youth of Macedonia.



26 DEC – 1 JAN

2-8 JAN

9-15 JAN

16-22 JAN

23-29 JAN

Eritrea

Please ask God to bless the Bible work in this country and that His Word can reach the hearts of the entire population. Pray for the work carried out by the local Bible Society among youth, and for translation projects. The work here is led by GS Minasse Haileab.

Ethiopia

Pray for the Barge New Testament translation and for the East Oromo Old Testament translation. Pray for their Trauma Healing programmes and for those that participate in them. Ask God that He would open the hearts of people in Ethiopia to the Gospel. Pray for the staff team here led by GS Yilma Getahun.

Central African Republic

Pray for peace in Central African Republic, and that the Bible would play a role in bringing about this peace. Pray that a new BS vehicle would be provided so that vital Bible work can continue. Pray for Executive Secretary Sylvain M. Ndjendolé and the team as they adapt projects to comply with COVID-19 restrictions.

El Salvador

Pray for the New Testament Tour in Schools as it adapts to be shared with online classes. Pray for the work among prisoners and convicts as the Gospel is shared with these people. Pray for projects reaching out to victims of domestic abuse. Pray for GS Pablo Gonzalez as he leads the team here.

Honduras

Please pray for wisdom to make projects more relevant, particularly to children and young people. Ask for protection for the staff and volunteers, as they live in one of the most violent countries in the world. Pray that the Gospel would make a positive impact on their country. GS Jorge Gomez leads the work here.

Guatemala

Pray for the at-risk children in Guatemala that are being reached. Pray also for young Guatemalans who hear the Gospel, that it might impact their lives. Pray that more people in Guatemala may have access to the Bible in the language of their hearts. The work here is led by GS Saúl Sosa Urizar.

Malawi

Pray for Bible literacy projects, teaching the Yao people to read using the Bible. Pray for the work among children, young people and Bible Youth Advocates. Pray for the Family Engagement Packs, helping families to read God's Word together. The work here is led by GS Clapperton Mayuni and the team of staff and volunteers.

Kenya

Pray for the distribution of Bibles in schools and among marginalised youth. Pray for the impact that COVID-19 is having on this project. Pray for the work that reaches out to people who are disabled, deaf or visually impaired. The staff team here is led by GS Elizabeth Muriuki.

Tanzania

Pray for the work here especially amongst those with disabilities. Pray that the Bible Society of Tanzania would be able to help them to become more included in the local church. Pray for the translation projects and workshops going on. Pray for GS Alfred Kimonge as he leads the work here.

Hungary

Thank God for the recently revised Károli Bible translation. Pray for the many Bible distribution projects and the online Bible contests. Pray also for the translation of the Bible into sign language. Pray for the staff and team led by GS Ottó Pecsuk.

Moldova

Pray that the Bible Society of Moldova would continue to be able to provide God's Word in a suitable format and language to the people in their country. Pray for good relationships with churches and other Christian organisations. Pray for Executive Director Anatoly Kirillov as he leads the team here.

Slovenia

Pray for the Bible Society here as they begin to engage new audiences through the use of digital media. Pray for their work amongst different denominations. Pray for their work amongst those who are deaf or visually impaired. Pray for their Trauma Healing projects and for GS Matjaž Črnivec, who leads the staff team.

Colombia

Pray for their work amongst displaced people and immigrants from Venezuela. Pray for their work among schools and that they would continue to be allowed to share the Gospel and Biblical principles with children. Pray for the translators working on projects. The work here is led by GS Diana Leal.

Peru

Please pray for the Bible translation projects into Quechua of Apurímac and Matsigenka. Pray for the "Bread of Life" project as it offers spiritual and material nourishment to poor children. Pray for the impact that COVID-19 is having on these projects. Pray for Executive Director Pablo Gutierrez and the team.

Ecuador

Pray for the work in Ecuador among families, helping them to engage with the Bible as a family unit. Pray for the Bible Society here as they seek to provide 100,000 New Testaments. Pray for the revision of the Bible here, and for Executive Director Daniel Oliva as he leads the team.



Future Thinking

STRATEGY FOR THE NEXT 3 YEARS

Over the years we have seen God's generosity on the work of Bible Society in Northern Ireland – this has been especially true in the last 18 months. Thank you to each and every one of you who have generously supported us financially, who have prayed with and for us and for all the encouragement that we receive from our supporters.

We will finish our current three-year strategy at the end of 2021 and are currently thinking and praying about the next three years. When we prepared our current strategy document, we could not have anticipated a global pandemic, yet we have achieved so much despite the restrictions placed on us.

Many of us find the language of strategy and strategic planning too corporate and business like for a faith-based charity like Bible Society NI; however, it is important that we steward the resources we are blessed with well. We need to plan and prepare for the future.

Like many other organisations lockdown restrictions forced us to accelerate changes in how we do things in Bible Society NI; we have moved so much online, from daily team time to Board meetings.

“Despite a global pandemic, God used us to reach many different people in 45 different projects across 42 countries.”

We have been able to be flexible and adapt to the new demands and expectations from others like providing talks for churches and groups via video.

Lockdown also created the space for creativity and new things grew and blossomed including our 52 resource and other devotionals which have been used widely around Northern Ireland and much further afield.

As we look to the future, we do so prayerfully. We've seen how all of our plans unravelled in 2020 when

lockdown started, and yet God was still in control.

As we look to the future, we do so expectantly. We want to see growth and development in the work that we do here in Northern Ireland and the work that we do to support our colleagues around the world.

As we look to the future, we do so grounded in God's Word. We know the power, the potential and the promises contained in the Bible and want to base our work on those as we reach out with God's Word.

We are your Bible Society as we work here in Northern Ireland; we want to know what your thoughts are as we develop and plan for the future, so why not get in touch with your ideas.

Email: catherine@biblesocietyni.co.uk
Tel: 028 9032 6577

BIBLE-A-MONTH 2022

Each year our Bible-a-month calendar shares 12 countries where amazing Bible Society projects are taking place. A gift of £5 each month can give someone a Bible in these countries. It can help people receive the Bible in their heart language and in a format they can use, perhaps for the very first time.

If you would like to sign up to our Bible a Month Calendar please visit: www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/give/bible-a-month-club/ for how you can join!

- + Pray for the many Christians who are yet to receive their own Bible. Pray that God would provide them with Scripture.
- + Pray for Bible translations going on all around the world and for the people who are yet to have Scripture in their heart language.
- + Pray for Bible Societies all around the world as everyone has been affected by COVID-19.



Bringing Healing and Hope to the Vanuatu Women

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER PROJECT 2021

Each year, the World Day of Prayer supports a different country, helping to support Bible projects around the globe. This year the focus has been on the South Pacific, where we support a project on the island of Vanuatu helping women who have been victims of domestic abuse. The Bible Society of the South Pacific is working with women from Vanuatu to advocate and empower them with the Word of God.

It is estimated that 42% of women in Vanuatu will experience some form of domestic abuse in their lifetime. "Family matters" are considered very private and the cultural environment makes it very hard for women to leave an abusive relationship. Women in these relationships are often unaware of their legal and human rights which can protect them against the abuse.

Through this project women are provided with support and counselling through a Bible-based programme. This programme includes workshops which educate them on their rights, laws which will protect them, and the legal procedures needed to implement them. These workshops also

highlight the signs that a relationship has become abusive.

Trauma Healing workshops provide emotional support to those who need it. They help these ladies to process their experiences and show them their worth in Jesus Christ. A central part of this project is teaching these ladies that they are loved and valued by their Heavenly Father, sharing the wonder of the gospel with them and helping them to see themselves as Christ does. This project works closely with local churches, government organisations and other faith-based groups to educate and support these women. The Bible Society here works in partnership with relevant agencies

to educate women on their legal and human rights.

Recently there has been an addition to this programme in the form of a literacy element. This was identified as a need of these women to be able to live independently. Often these ladies have no education and culturally wives cannot own property or accumulate wealth. This means that if they have to exit an abusive relationship, they are left with little to no resources. This literacy element will help these women to become independent and open employment opportunities up to them. Ladies can access all parts of this project, including workshops and resources, free of charge.

42%
of women
in Vanuatu will
experience
domestic abuse
in their lifetime.

Prayer requests from this project:

- + Pray for the ladies in Vanuatu who have experienced abuse. Ask that God would give them courage to reach out for help and that He would speak to them through this programme.
- + Pray for the staff as they coordinate this programme, and that God would give them wisdom as they aid these women.
- + Pray for continued good relationships with other faith-based and government organisations. Please ask that they will continue to be able to support these women as best they can.

International News

Challenges Faced by Translators in the Philippines



Xandra and her family in front of their home.

Xandra Vargas and her family live in a simple concrete house in the east of the Philippines, on the island of Catanduanes.

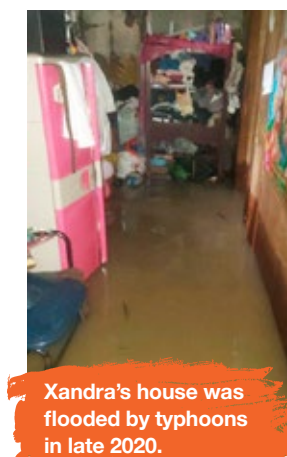
Xandra, 26, is one of three translators who have been working since June 2019 to translate the New Testament into their language, Viracnon, for the first time. Viracnon is spoken by around 135,000 people.

COVID-19 has meant that the Bible Society's translation office has closed, so Xandra and the other translators took their laptops home and continued their translation work.

Typhoons are common in her region, but last year, disaster struck when three typhoons hit, one after the other, over three consecutive weeks. These typhoons killed around 150 people, destroyed thousands of homes and caused huge damage.

"As the typhoon was ravaging our province, I kept on praying," recalls Xandra. "Flood water started to enter our home and in less than five minutes it was already knee-deep. As the water rose, the wind became stronger, too, and our kitchen was destroyed in no time. I was so afraid."

As the storm grew, Xandra's main concern was for her young nieces and nephews, but she also protected her translation laptop. She knew that if she lost the work on the laptop it would take months to redo, and her people would have to



Xandra's house was flooded by typhoons in late 2020.

wait even longer to hear God's Words in their own language.

Xandra and her family survived the storm, but their home was destroyed. Yet, amidst the fear and chaos around her, she kept translating the Bible.

"When I'm working on my drafts, it seems like I can hear God speaking to me, saying 'Trust in me. We will get over this together. I won't let go of you,'" she says. "Those comforting words lifted my burden and made the

situation bearable. And, even if I felt exhausted, I was re-energised when I translated. I was ready to face the battle again."

The team expects to complete the translation work in December 2021 and they look forward to the launch of the very first Viracnon New Testament in 2022.



Xandra points to the Parable of the Persistent Widow and Judge (Luke 18), which brought her hope during the typhoons.



Just like in Northern Ireland- you can't have a football camp without trophies!

Albania Friends for Life Update

In our last edition of W@W we featured the Friends for Life Sports Centre in Albania. This sports centre is set to be a hub for evangelism and Bible engagement in Tirana. We are pleased to report that we were able to give a substantial financial gift to the Bible Society of Albania, as well as a very practical gift of medals and bibs for their summer programme.

Since our last issue, Altin, our colleague in Albania, has sent us an update on the sports centre. They are pleased to report that they are very near the full completion of the sports centre. They are very excited to have the centre fully operational and ask that we join them in praying that many will encounter Jesus as a result of the completion of the centres.

Bible Distribution among Marginalised Children

KENYA



Every week, children in Kenya receive a Christian Religious Education lesson in school. During this lesson they learn about the Bible and Christian beliefs, however, a recent study estimated that 98% of public schools have no Bibles to use during these lessons. Furthermore, many families cannot afford to buy Scripture; living in poverty means they must prioritise the basic needs of their children.

Seeing this need, the Bible Society of Kenya has been working

with the government and local schools to provide free Bibles for marginalised children. Alongside the work distributing these Bibles in schools, they also distribute Bibles to children in orphanages and children's homes, as well as children living in disadvantaged areas.

The Gift of a First Bible

In late 2020, the Bible Society of Kenya visited a children's home in Kajiado County. They were able to distribute Bibles to the children there; most of these young people

had never owned a Bible before. They were overjoyed at the gift and were excited to begin studying their own copy of God's Word.

Maria, a young girl at the children's home told the Bible Society staff- *"I am forever grateful for this gift. Nobody has ever given me a Bible. Thank you."*

Mama Zipporah, the founder of the children's home excitedly told staff, *"It is so refreshing to see every child with a Bible. This week I have been teaching about the Word of God! What a timely season! I bless the Lord."*

Hope for the Children

In the spring of 2021, the Bible Society visited a further 41 schools to distribute Bibles. The children in these schools come from some of the poorest families in the county, residing in slum areas and scheme settlement areas. For some, their parents do not recognise the importance of education. As such, they will only allow their children to



Despite the pandemic, distribution has continued with safety measures in place.



Bible distribution in remote areas of Kenya.

go to school occasionally, encouraging them to instead work or stay at home and take care of the younger ones.

For these families, Scripture is a luxury. Many live hand to mouth and could never dream of owning a Bible; they must focus on feeding their families.

The Bible Society of Kenya gave out Bibles to the children and their families in these areas, allowing them to own a copy of God's Word for themselves.

"You have given me the best gift in the world!" exclaimed Felister, a child who has received a Bible through this project. "I have longed to own a copy of this Bible. It's hard to ask my guardian to buy because his priority is food and my school fees. I will forever remember this

day. I will read this Bible and use it to help boost my Christian Religious Education subject here in school."

So far in 2021, nearly 8,000 Bibles have been distributed to marginalised youths in 54 schools. These Bibles will impact over 10,000 children in these schools through their Christian Religious Education lessons, as well as their families.

Teachers have reported that knowledge of Bible stories, verses and passages have vastly improved among their pupils since receiving these Bibles.

It is such a privilege to be able to be a part of providing these Bibles free of charge to children and families who could never afford one. Truly a reflection of the Gospel; God's grace freely accessible to all who accept it!



Pray for this project:

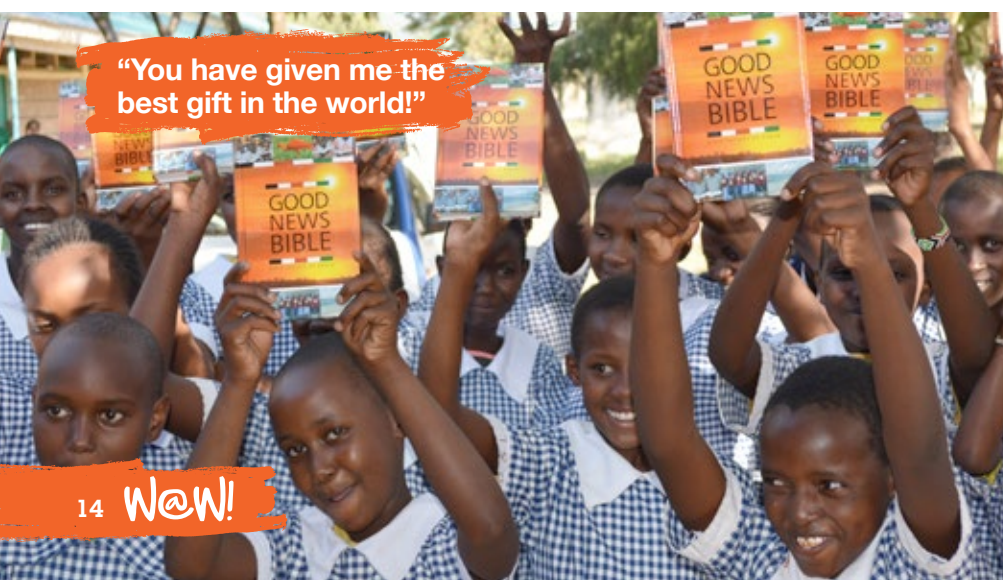
- + Thank God that Bibles have continued to be able to be distributed among these young people. Ask for continued safety in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- + Pray that as these children read and learn about the Bible, that they would retain some of the information and that it would impact their lives.
- + Ask God that through reading the Bible for themselves, children would follow Christ and ask Him to be their Saviour.

Donate

You can make a donation to this project to help the Bible Society of Kenya bring God's Word to children:

- + **£25** could help to cover the cost of 5 Bibles provided to children in a school or care home.
- + **£50** could help provide a class of 10 children with free Bibles.
- + **£150** could provide a small rural school of 30 children with Bibles.

If you would like to donate to this project simply fill out the form that was included with this magazine. You can also donate online on our website at www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/project/kenya-bible-distribution-to-disadvantaged-youth or scan this QR code with your smartphone.



"You have given me the best gift in the world!"

Give the Greatest Gift this Christmas



Every year we buy presents for loved ones, some more meaningful than others! This year, your Christmas gifts could have a huge impact on someone's life. You could give them the ultimate gift: the Bible. Around the world there are thousands of Christians who have never owned a full Bible; your gift this Christmas could change that.

This year we are supporting projects in Argentina, Azerbaijan, Ghana, the Gulf States, India and Uruguay, making the Bible available and accessible to local people. Each Greatest Gift donation comes with a voucher containing details of your chosen project for you to give to your loved one.

Whether you'd like to give a Greatest Gift to a loved one or request them in lieu of your own gifts, we'd love to send you a catalogue.

Keep an eye out for your 2021 Greatest Gift catalogue coming November 2021!

Bible-a-Month Club

If you would like to regularly give the gift of a Bible, check out our Bible-a-Month club!

Every month we support a Bible project in a different country around the world. From translation to distribution, throughout 2022 we will be supporting 12 projects working to reach everyone with God's Word. Our Bible-a-Month calendar contains information and prayer points on each country and every month we publish Extra Insight, an email with updates, interviews and photos.

A donation as small as £5 a month will help us to provide Scripture to those who are waiting for access to their own Bible. For more information on receiving a calendar or joining the Bible-a-Month club visit www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/give/bible-a-month-club.

You can also contact the office on 028 9032 6577 or email info@biblesocietyni.co.uk



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