



BIBLE SOCIETY
NORTHERN IRELAND

W@W!

Word at Work

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

SPRING 2022



A FOCUS ON THE WORK
IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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Cover photo shows The Gathering 2019, where we were able to share stories of Bible work from around the world.



Welcome

Catherine Little
General Secretary, Bible Society NI

Every time I write the welcome to our Word at Work magazine, I am aware of how grateful we are as a team for all that God has done, is doing and will do through us. I am aware of how grateful we are to you our supporters who encourage us through your prayerful support and your generosity. I am also aware of how grateful I am to the team of staff, our volunteers and to our Board of Trustees.

You will notice a difference in this edition of Word at Work. This edition is dedicated to our work here at home. We still have our Prayer at Work pages for you to use, but everything else focuses on our work here in Northern Ireland.

2022 is a very special year as people all over the world through the World Day of Prayer network will gather on the 4th March to pray for England, Wales and Northern Ireland under the theme 'I know the plans I have for you' (Jeremiah 29 v 11). This has opened up opportunities to reach out to our own community with God's Word in new and exciting ways.

We have three main projects:

- + **Bibles for Babies:** We have offered a free age-appropriate children's Bible to every baby

born in Northern Ireland in 2021 with plans to stay in touch on their 2nd, 3rd and 4th Birthdays and then supply another age-appropriate Bible on their 5th Birthday.

- + **Daring to Hope – Lament:** A 5-week small group resource to help us all reflect and rediscover the sometimes-forgotten prayer language of the Bible – LAMENT.

- + **52:** Taking our digital family resource looking at 28 Old and 24 New Testament passages and printing it for distribution.

All of these projects will help us reach out with God's Word to new audiences here in Northern Ireland as we encourage people here to engage more with the Bible. The response to this work in Northern Ireland has been overwhelmingly positive. We are continuing to support our global colleagues whilst also investing into our local context.

Please join with us to pray for our work in 2022 and beyond. Consider how you can get involved as we reach out with God's Word.

Catherine Little

Local News

The Gathering 2021



Elaine from the Scottish Bible Society sharing at 'The Gathering'

On Friday 12th November 2021, we were thrilled to host our 3rd Annual Supporters' Evening, 'The Gathering', both in-person from The Agape Centre, and streamed live online. We loved hearing from Rachel Kennedy (The HUB Belfast), Altin Hysi in Albania and our special guest Elaine Duncan (Chief Executive Scottish Bible Society and UBS Global Council Chair) as they shared and encouraged us with stories of people engaging with the Bible and the impact that is having on people's lives.

As a team we were also delighted to be able to launch our World Day of Prayer 2022 projects, which you can find out more about on pages 4-6.



Bible Reading in 1st Omagh PCI

On Bible Sunday 2020 we launched our Bible reading challenge to read the Bible in one year. Many of us had started this challenge before but given up somewhere in the middle of Numbers or 2 Chronicles. The long list of begats or the census of the clans proved too much for us. This time round we decided to follow a different reading pattern which divided the readings into seven different genres, one for each day of the week. On Mondays we read from the Books of the Law, on Tuesdays it was History time, Wednesday was a refreshing dip into the Psalms, Thursdays we plundered the Wisdom literature, on Fridays we heard from the Prophets, Saturday was a day immersed in the Gospels and on Sundays we took instruction from the Apostolic Letters.

To keep members on track we created a Facebook Group page. This private group meant that members were able to share their thoughts, ask their questions and encourage one another to keep reading.

We started the challenge at the end of October 2020 and had hoped to meet in person to encourage one another but a second national lockdown in the New Year prevented that. The combination of the different genres and the online encouragements meant that we were able to keep going and were able to read the Bible in a year. But we achieved so much more than that! Our faith was strengthened and encouraged by God's word in the toughest of times and we were also

by Jane Nelson
Minister, First Omagh Presbyterian Church

“ Our faith was strengthened and encouraged by God's word in the toughest of times. ”

challenged and inspired to live out our Christian faith just like the early Christians and with the commitment and dedication of the prophets of old. We hope to start Bible Society NI 52 resource in January next year as we have all been inspired to keep up the habit of daily Bible reading.

If you haven't ever challenged yourself to read through the Scriptures in a year I would strongly encourage you to do so!





BIBLES FOR BABIES



We want everyone in Northern Ireland to have access to a Bible, which is why one of our 2022 projects for Northern Ireland is Bibles for Babies: a Bible distribution initiative to get a Bible into the homes of babies born in 2021.

We are passionate about families reading God's Word together and hope that this will encourage parents and guardians to read to their young ones from the very beginning of their life. We have partnered with the World Day of Prayer (formally Women's World Day of Prayer) for these projects, aiming to get the whole family reading God's Word together.

Through this programme we want to provide a FREE Bible to every baby born in 2021, and then again in 2026 when they turn 5. We will also send them a birthday card on their 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Birthdays. We were completely blown away when we launched this project in November 2021, with over 1,000 babies registered in 24 hours! To date we have had nearly 1,500 babies registered.

This project is available to every child born in Northern Ireland in 2021, no matter what their background.



We want to bless babies and their families, wherever they are living in Northern Ireland.

We simply want to bless babies and their families, wherever they are living in Northern Ireland. Babies can be registered by other relatives or family friends, however, you must have the parent/guardian's permission to sign a baby up.

The international projects we support are often part funded by other Bible Societies around the world through the United Bible Societies fellowship, and this project is no different. We have had Bible Societies from all around the world come together to help us fund this project. Our international colleagues are excited to support us as we seek to provide

families with God's Word.

If you have a little one born in 2021 who you'd like to sign up to receive a toddler Bible, simply go to our website to register them at www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/resources/bibles-for-babies, or scan this QR code with your smartphone. We will need your details, baby's details and their parent/guardian's details to register them. Please ensure the permission of a parent/guardian if you are registering a friend or family member's child.



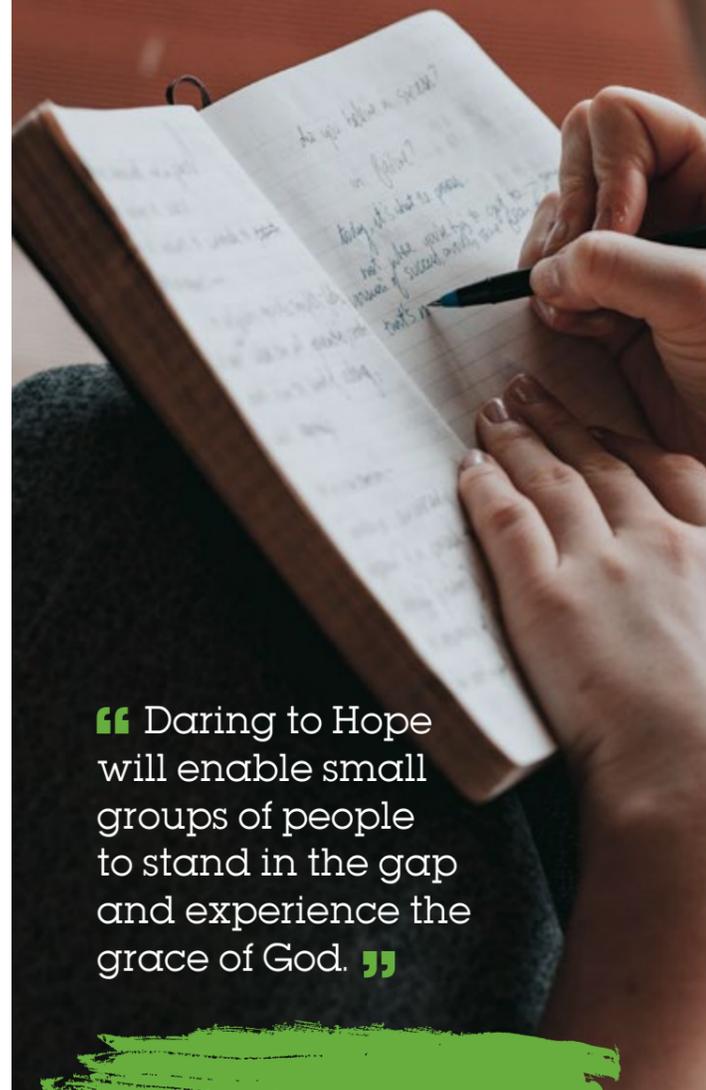
Volunteer to help with Bibles for Babies!

Do you have some free time during the week? We'd love to put together a team of volunteers to help us with this project. We need help wrapping and writing cards to each baby who has signed up. Of course, tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided!

If you would be interested in volunteering for Bibles for Babies, please ring the office on 028 9032 6577 or visit the Bibles for Babies page on our website.



DARING TO Hope



“Daring to Hope will enable small groups of people to stand in the gap and experience the grace of God.”

Take the first steps in your journey of Christian lament

Visit the **Daring to Hope** page on the resources section of our website and sign up to receive updates today or get in touch with our office on 02890 326577!

We look forward to working with and serving your church as we present this vitally important resource for these days.

A New Small Group Resource

Every human being has the same opening story. Life begins with tears. Yet this first heartfelt protest and crying of tears does not end simply moments after our birth; it continues throughout our lives because the world is broken. To cry is human.

Across Northern Ireland, people inside and outside of the church are often facing up to an avalanche of psychological, emotional and spiritual pains. Carrying tears, wounds, doubts, pains and sorrow, perhaps because of our nation's troubled past, or due to the impact of COVID-19, and even for a myriad of other unique and personal reasons, the church is faced with a significant and important challenge... How do we respond to that which is before us and within us?

At the Bible Society in Northern Ireland, we know that being a part of the church in Northern Ireland and beyond, we need to be able to come together and deal with the realities of what many are experiencing, in the light and grace of who God is. Nothing can be swept away or ignored.

To do that, as part of the World Day of Prayer 2022, we have created Daring to Hope: Experiencing the Grace of Lament.

Available from March 2022, this accessible, five-session small group resource aims to help people inside and outside of the church rediscover the often-neglected prayer language in the Bible for our travels through a broken world: lament.

Journeying through the Bible, this resource will encounter and explore the four elements of lament seen so often within the Scriptures:

1. Turning to God
2. Bringing our complaint
3. Asking boldly for help
4. Daring to trust in God

Through combinations of video teaching, group discussion, personal reflection, and opportunities for participants to learn to lament, Daring to Hope will enable small groups of people under the care of their church leaders and support of Bible Society NI to stand in the gap and experience the grace of God as they wrestle with the paradox of their brokenness and pain, and the promises of God's power, faithfulness and goodness.

We pray that you and your church might consider joining us on this journey as we turn toward God, living, lamenting and daring to hope for the day when "he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away" (Rev. 21:4).

52

A BIBLE READING PLAN FOR THE FAMILY

Throughout 2021 hundreds of people, families and churches across Northern Ireland journeyed with us through our one-year long Bible reading challenge; 52. With a brand-new pack of readings released each month, the 28 Old Testament and 24 New Testament readings – the 52 – desired to take every reader on a journey through the BIG STORY of the Bible.

At the beginning of 2022 we want to take you over 1,000 miles away from Northern Ireland to Poland, where our colleague from the Polish Bible Society, Konrad, shares of the impact of 52 upon many young people in his nation.

“The 52 Bible Reading Plan is a great, colourful and innovative project. We are extremely grateful to the Bible Society in Northern Ireland for the opportunity to publish this reading plan in Polish. We have had great feedback from church leaders. What is important is that it encourages the reading of Scripture without discouraging. This is crucial when working with children and young people who are just beginning their adventure with the Word of God.

The nice artwork and font make it easy to learn the Bible verses by heart. We are glad that even adults are reaching for this Bible reading plan. Several people have asked us if they could buy the 52 graphic with Scripture quotes as a picture printed on canvas to hang in their homes. Also we printed special leaflets promoting the 52, which were distributed during the summer holidays while travelling through Poland with our BibleBus.

Less than 2 years after the start of the pandemic, we are still learning a new reality. Before the virus appeared, we visited schools, parishes and churches. We talked about the history of the Bible and Bible Societies around the world. After the virus appeared, services from churches were moved to the Internet, teaching from schools in front of laptop screens. Suddenly contact between people was reduced to a minimum. Our only channels of promotion remained social media and our website.

In December we will be publishing the 11th month of the reading plan in Polish. Once will have completed the translation of all 52, maybe it will be possible to put it together and even publish as a booklet, and after the return of the face-to-face meetings, we hope to reach as many young people as possible!”

We are excited by all God is doing both around the world and in “our wee country”, too! At the start of this new year, we are delighted to announce that 52 will be available to purchase in a paperback book from February 2022! Priced at just £15 this vibrant Bible Engagement resource is the perfect book for families, Sunday Schools, Youth Fellowships, and even small group ministries seeking to read, study, discover and practice more of the Bible.



Pre-order your copy today!
Visit our website:
www.biblesocietyyni.co.uk/resources/52



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.

Jan 30 - Feb 5

Albania Remember the Friends for Life Sports Centre and those who are learning about the Gospel through sports. Pray for those who are using the new translation of the Albanian Bible, ask that would grow in their faith as a result of this Bible. Pray for the team here led by GS Altin Hysi.

Macedonia Pray for the New Standard translation of the New Testament into Macedonian and for the translation of the Bible into Macedonian Sign Language. Pray for Bible engagement and distribution projects, especially those among young people and children who cannot afford a Bible. The work here is led by GS Gjoko Gjorgjevski.

Bulgaria Pray for Bible distribution projects in Bulgaria. Praise God that there has been an increase in the demand for Bibles and pray that people would come to faith through reading God's Word. Pray for the Bulgarian Bible Society The work here is led by GS Radoslav Apostolov and his team of staff and volunteers.

Feb 6 - 12

Greece Please pray for the Bibles for Athens' Hot Spot project, distributing Scripture to students and young people. Pray for the work on Scholarly Editions of the Bible, and that these would be a blessing to those who are studying God's Word. The work here is led by GS Michail Chatziyiannis.

Italy Pray for the work of the Bible Society here, ask God to bless them as they seek to support the local church and Christian community. Pray that their work would speak into people's lives and that individuals would come to a saving faith in Christ. The Bible Society in Italy is led by GS Mario Cignoni.

Malta Pray that the Bible Society would be a good support to the local church in Malta. Pray for good relationships with the local church and other Christian organisations. Ask God to bless evangelistic efforts in Malta. Please pray for the Board, staff and volunteers here.

Feb 13 - 19

Zambia Pray for local translation and Bible revision projects, especially the revisions of the Nyanja, Tumbuka and Kaonde Bibles. Pray for the Million Bibles project, promoting Bible engagement among rural primary school children. The work in Zambia is led by GS Abraham Chikasa; pray for him as he leads the team this year.

Angola Please pray for the Kikongo and Kimbundu new Bible translations. There are many translations ongoing in Angola, pray for translators as they work on these Bibles. Ask God that He would guide GS Beatriz Hupa and her team throughout the next year as they adapt projects to COVID-19 restrictions in Angola.

Mozambique Pray for those who have recently been hit by tropical cyclones and storms. Pray for the first translation of the Bible into many local languages, including the Manyawa, Ciwute and Marenje Bibles. Remember those still being impacted by COVID-19. Pray for Executive Secretary Valente Tseco and the staff team here.

Feb 20 - 26

Arab Israeli Pray for the Arab Israeli Bible Society as they bring Scripture to those in their community. Pray for those of other faiths, that they would come to know the true God. Pray for the work empowering women and families through Bible engagement. The work of the Arab Israeli Bible Society is led by GS Dina Katanacho.

Israel Pray for the first Old Testament translation of the Bible into Modern Hebrew, and those who this will impact. Pray for evangelistic projects, such as the Go and Proclaim project. The projects here are carried out by Executive Director Victor Kalisher and his team. Pray that they would be strengthened and encouraged in their work.

Palestine Pray for the Child of Bethlehem project and the many children and young people that it will reach. Ask that they would grow strong in their faith. Pray also for the Proclaim It! project which seeks to equip Christians in Palestine for evangelism. The work of the Palestinian Bible Society is led by GS Nashat Filmon.

BIBLE-A-MONTH PROJECT FEBRUARY: JORDAN

The Bible Society in Jordan wants to make the Bible available and accessible to everyone in their community. They are passionate that every Christian and non-Christian, Jordanian and non-Jordanian, of all ages and background having the opportunity to read God's Word in their own language. The Bible Society in Jordan does this through providing Scriptures to those who need them.

- + Pray for the bookfairs across Jordan, and for those who receive Scripture through them.
- + Pray for those who do not know Christ who receive literature from the Bible Society.
- + Pray for the staff and volunteers who help to make God's Word accessible in Jordan.

The Bible Society of Jordan also engages the local community through Bible engagement resources for churches, individuals and online audiences. They attend bookfairs around the country, advocating for the Bible and distributing free Scriptures to those who attend.



Feb 27 –
Mar 5

Chile
Please remember all those involved in the Light at Sunset project, providing large print Bibles to older people. Pray for the Chilean Sign Language translation and for those involved in faith-based Trauma Healing projects all over the country. Remember GS Francisco Errazu as he leads the team, and for his Board.

Uruguay
Pray for the Sunday School teachers involved in the Draw My Own Bible project, working with at-risk children in Uruguay. Pray for work training youth leaders and the Uruguayan Sign Language translation. Pray for the core presence of the Bible Society in Uruguay and for GS Samuel Duarte as he leads the work.

Argentina
Pray for the Bible translation of the Bible into West Toba. This translation is very near completion and will soon become available to the Toba people. The Bible Society here is led by GS Ruben Del Ré. Pray that they will be able to continue spreading God's Word despite COVID-19 restrictions.

April
3 - 9

Ukraine
Pray for the Word of Hope to Crisis Families project, helping those who have been hardest hit by circumstances in recent years. Pray for the outreach work in hospitals, especially to medical staff. Pray also for the work among the military. The Ukrainian Bible Society is led by GS Oleksandr Babychuk.

Belarus
Pray for Scripture distribution among those who are most at risk in Belarus. Pray especially for the work among at risk children. Ask that the Bible Society here would be a good support to the local church. CEO Georgij Melnikov is in charge of the Bible Society in the Republic of Belarus.

Russia
Pray for the translation of the New Testament into Russian Sign Language and those this translation will impact. Pray for the distribution of Scriptures all across Russia, especially in the remote parts of Siberia. Pray for Anatoly Rudenko as he leads the staff team in Russia.

March
6 - 12

Armenia
Pray for the Armenian Study Bible and for those who will use this valuable resource. Pray for the New Revised Western Armenian Bible and for those waiting on the more modern version. Pray for their work among schools and among children. Remember the staff, volunteers and Board led by GS Yeznik Petrosyan.

Georgia
Pray for the Bible Society here as they seek to provide people in Georgia with God's Word in their native language. Pray for the COVID-19 situation in Georgia and for the "Bible in the Time of COVID" project. The Bible Society in Georgia is led by Avtandil Guruli and his team.

Azerbaijan
Pray for the Bible distribution work in Azerbaijan, as they seek to get Scripture into the hands of as many people as possible. Pray for their work among children and young people promoting Bible engagement. The work here is led by GS Rasim Khalilov and his team of staff and volunteers.

April
10 - 16

Belgium (French)
Pray for the churches the Belgian Bible Society (French) supports and the Christian community and for evangelistic efforts in the country. Pray that people would come to faith in Christ Jesus. The work here is led by GS Vincent Beckers and his team.

Netherlands and Flanders
Pray for the online work of the Bible Society here. Pray that the online space would be somewhere that people would engage with God's Word. Thank God for every supporter who makes this possible through praying and donating. The team in the Netherlands is led by GS Rieuwerd Buitenwerf.

“ Pray for the online work of the Bible Society, that the online space would be somewhere that people would engage with God's Word. ”

March
13 - 19

New Zealand
Pray for projects creating easy access to Scripture, a collaborative partnership with the Asia Pacific Bible Societies. Pray for good relationships with the local church, and that the Bible Society here would be a good support to the Christian community. Pray for CEO Neels Janse Van Rensburg as he leads the Board and staff team here.

Australia
Praise God for the many people who prayerfully and financially support Bible Society Australia. Pray for the Bibles for Bubs programme, giving free Bibles to children all over the country. Pray for the work among children, young people and their families. The work in Australia is led by CEO Grant Thomson.

South Pacific
Pray for essential IT work that is ongoing, helping to accelerate Bible work within the South Pacific. Pray for the Trauma Healing projects, including the work among the women of Vanuatu. Pray for the ongoing translations of the Bible into local languages. GS Geoffry Miller leads the work in the South Pacific Bible Society.

April
17 - 23

Ghana
Pray for the Scriptures for School Pupils project, as the Bible Society seeks to distribute Bibles to as many children as they can. Pray for the work among people with disabilities and that they would know God's love for them. The team here is led by GS Enoch Aryee-Atta.

Togo
Pray for the Lama, Kabiye and Nawdum Bible translations in Togo, and for the thousands waiting for God's Word in their heart language. Pray for the Faith Comes By Hearing projects, as people hear the Gospel. Pray for GS Estelle Akouegnon as she leads her team of staff and volunteers in these projects.

Benin
Pray for the many Bible translations and revisions going on in Benin. Pray for the work among children in orphanages and among those who have experienced trauma. Pray that people will grow in their relationship with God. Pray for the staff team in Benin, including GS Kancou Oguu and the Board members.

March
20 - 26

Austria
Pray for the work among refugees, including those who are in detention centres or prison. Pray for the work producing large print portions of the Psalms for elderly people in homes, and that these will comfort people in their old age. The work here is led by GS Jutta Henner and her team.

Switzerland
Pray for evangelistic projects reaching out to everyone with God's Word. Pray for good relationships with the local church and that the Bible Society here would be a support to local Christians. The work here is led by CEO Benjamin Doberstein. Please remember Benjamin and his staff team as they carry out projects.

Germany
Pray for the Scholarly Editions of the Bible and for those who will use these to study God's Word. Pray for church leaders in Germany as they shepherd the church, that God would encourage them in their work. The German Bible Society is led by GS Christoph Rösel and his team.

April
24 - 30

Bolivia
Pray for the work among children and young people, especially for the I'm Special! project. Pray for the work among migrants and refugees facing poverty. Please ask the Lord to give the staff and volunteers, led by GS Fanny Cossío, wisdom to bring God's Word to the most distant parts of Bolivia.

Paraguay
Pray for the projects reaching out with the Gospel to people with disabilities. Pray for the work aboard the El Amanecer boat as it travels down the Paraguay River bringing supplies, Scriptures and teaching for church leaders. Executive Director Pedro Escobar leads the work of the Paraguayan Bible Society.

Brazil
Pray for the work providing Braille Bibles to people with visual impairments. Pray for the work reaching the indigenous people in the remote parts of the Amazon. Pray for the COVID-19 situation in Brazil. The work here is led by Executive Director Erni Seibert.

March
27 -
April 2

Pakistan
Pray for the Beacon in the Darkness of Illiteracy project in Pakistan, and for the women and children this will impact. Pray for the Growing with the Bible project, and for the children and young people that are involved. Pray for their General Secretary, Rev. Azhar Mustaq.

India
Pray for the Christian community in India as it becomes increasingly hard to publicly follow God. Pray for the work among children and those who live in slums throughout India. Pray for the many ongoing translation projects. Pray also for GS Mani Chacko as he leads the team.

Nepal
Pray for Bible Society projects which seek to reach those with disabilities, such as the audio Bibles project. Pray for Bible translation into native languages and for work among children. The work in Nepal is led by CEO Tej Bahadur Jirel.



BIBLE-A-MONTH PROJECT MARCH: NORTHERN IRELAND

In 2021, we launched our "Bibles for Babies" programme, a project which provides free, age-appropriate Bibles to babies born in 2021 on their first birthday. This programme is available to every child born in and living in Northern Ireland who will have their first birthday in 2022. It aims to bless families, Christian or non-Christian, and encourage Bible reading from a young age.

- + Pray that the children who will receive a Bible through this project will come to faith in Christ.
- + Pray for the families of these children, that this gift will have an impact on them too.
- + Pray for Bible engagement as a whole in Northern Ireland, that we would develop the habit of engaging with God's Word regularly.

BIBLE-A-MONTH PROJECT APRIL: LIBERIA

The church in Liberia is rapidly growing, and with an increase in church numbers there is an increase in the need for pastors. However, many pastors have very little Biblical or theological training.

The Bible Society in Liberia are working alongside the local church to train and equip pastors. They have developed a programme which helps them in areas of sermon preparation, church administration and Bible study. They provide Study Bibles in local languages to these pastors, ensuring they are best prepared to lead a church.

- + Pray for pastors in Liberia as they lead their churches. Ask God to give them wisdom and knowledge as they lead.
- + Praise God for those coming to faith and that many more would come as they hear the Gospel.
- + Pray that Christians would be blessed as their pastors learn how to better teach them the Bible.



May
1-7

Botswana

Pray for the ongoing impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on Botswana, and that the Bible Society here would be able to speak into these situations. Pray for the Botswanan Sign Language translation, and for those with a hearing impairment waiting for it. GS Ofentse Maruping leads the team in here.

Zimbabwe

Praise God for the project reaching Mothers of Differently Able Children, run in partnership with the World Day of Prayer. Pray for the promotion of the Chikunda Bible translation that it would be a blessing to those who read it. Pray for the translation of the Bible into Zimbabwean Sign Language. The work in Zimbabwe is led by GS Stephen Gwasira.

Namibia

Pray for the Children's Bible translation and for the young lives this will impact. Pray for the translation of the Bible into many native languages and for the people groups waiting for these to be complete. Pray for the team of staff and volunteers here led by CEO Schalk Botha.

May
8-14

Algeria

Pray for the church and Christian community in Algeria, as it is a hard country to practice Christianity. Pray for the Bible Society here as they provide Scripture and Bibles to those who are exploring the faith. Please pray for the situation in Algeria and for safety for the team, led by Executive Secretary Ali.

Morocco

Pray for the Moroccan Audio Bible, ask that this will be a blessing to those who are unable to access the written Word. Pray for online Bible engagement projects. Pray for Executive Director Latif and his team of staff and volunteers. Pray that God would keep them safe during this time.

Burkina Faso

Pray for literacy work among people groups, and for the ongoing translations of the Bible into Birifor and Bissa. Pray for the security situation in Burkina Faso, ask for safety in light of terror threats. Pray especially for the protection of the Bible Society staff, led by GS Dramane Yankiné.

May
15-21

Mali

Pray for the Bible translations going on in Mali, and for the Faith Comes By Hearing projects. Pray for the Bible engagement projects to get people from all age groups to interact with the Bible. Pray for Executive Secretary Jacques Dembélé as he leads the work in Mali.

Rwanda

Pray for the work of the Good Samaritan project which shares God's Word with those with HIV. Pray for the Trauma Healing programmes and those who will participate in them. Pray for the work improving literacy in the church. The work here is led by acting GS David Nkurunziza

Uganda

Praise God for the full Ugandan Braille Bible and pray for those who will use it to access God's Word. Pray for the continued development of the Bible House headquarters. Pray also for Faith Comes By Hearing projects. The Bible Society of Uganda is led by GS Simon Peter Mukhama.

May
22-28

Burundi

Pray for the FCBH project and the Trauma Healing projects in Burundi. Pray for the Kirundi translation and for the Literacy programme among those who have hearing impairments. Pray for GS Marjorie Niyungeko and the rest of her staff team at the Bible Society of Burundi.

Micronesia

Please ask God to bless the Bible work in these islands and that His Word can reach the hearts of many people. Pray that the work carried out by the local Bible Society reaches every individual, making the Bible available in formats and translations that meet their needs. The work in Micronesia is carried out from the Philippines and is led by Perry Cartera.

Papua New Guinea

Pray for the Bible translators working on the updated version of the Tok Pisin Bible. Pray that the Bible Society here would be able to support the local Christian community. Pray for the staff, volunteers and Board that carry out the work of the Bible Society in this county lead by acting GS Joel Peter.



BIBLE-A-MONTH PROJECT MAY: NEPAL

For those who are illiterate or those who have a visual impairment, the written Bible is inaccessible, and they cannot understand God's Word without assistance. An audio Bible can be life-changing for these people.

The Nepal Bible Society is working to meet the need for these audio Bibles by providing audio devices to those who need them across the country. These devices are easy to use and clearly proclaim the words of the Bible for those who are unable to read. The whole Bible in Nepali is available in audio format.

The Nepal Bible Society works among local churches, prisoners, children's homes and elderly homes, distributing these audio Bibles.

World Day of Prayer 2022



All around the world on Friday 4th March 2022 people will gather to pray. On that day services will take place generating a great wave of prayer encircling the globe, beginning as the sun rises over Samoa and ending some 38 hours later back in the Pacific, as the sun sets over American Samoa. This annual event is a women led; global, ecumenical movement known as 'World Day of Prayer' (you might know it as Women's World Day of Prayer).



The World Day of Prayer Committee

2022 is a particularly special year for England, Wales and Northern Ireland as this year it is the focus country. The Bible text from Jeremiah Ch 29 'I know the plans I have for you' is the theme and it encourages people to reflect on some of the issues facing them today: poverty, domestic abuse and disability, finding hope in difficult situations and encouragement in help from each other. World Day of Prayer has enabled sharing of the ideas and concerns of this region, as groups meet in communities and churches all over the world and pray for England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

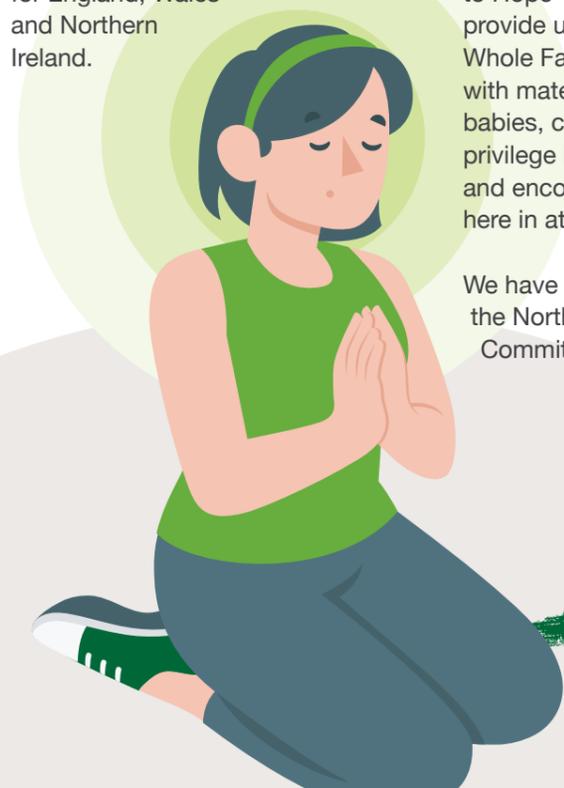
The Bible Society usually supports a project in the focus country – you might remember reading about Vanuatu in the South Pacific and Zimbabwe in recent years. In 2022 we have created projects for our country which have attracted support from the Bible Society in Australia, the Norwegian Bible Society and the Scottish Bible Society – we are so grateful for their support and encouragement.

Our projects for 2022 have been highlighted already in Word at Work – 'Bibles for Babies', 52 and Daring to Hope – Lament. These projects provide us with an opportunity for Whole Family Bible Engagement with materials and resources for babies, children and adults. What a privilege it is to be able to support and encourage Bible engagement here in at home in Northern Ireland.

We have worked closely with the Northern Ireland Executive Committee for World Day of Prayer

on this opportunity and have been delighted to help them promote the many events which take place across Northern Ireland. With 70 branches across Northern Ireland there is a World Day of Prayer event happening near all of us.

More information and resources can be found on the World Day of Prayer website – www.wwdp.org.uk You can also find out where your nearest event is on the website. It would be great if our supporters attended these World Day of Prayer events as our representatives.



Do you usually attend a World Day of Prayer event? Would you be willing to be a Bible Society NI ambassador at your local event? Why not get in touch with us as to how you can encourage your local World Day of Prayer event to connect with the Bible Society in Northern Ireland.

Behind Bible Society in Northern Ireland



The Board

By Catherine Little

General Secretary, Bible Society NI

As the General Secretary of the Bible Society in Northern Ireland I can often be given credit for far too much. As a team we all have our part to play in the many different elements of our work.

The day-to-day responsibility for the team lies with me as General Secretary, however the overall responsibility for the work of the Bible Society in Northern Ireland lies with the Board of Trustees. This group of volunteers are responsible for governance, for the strategy and vision of Bible Society in Northern Ireland and for the overall management of the affairs of our charity.

Every Board member comes with different knowledge, skills, abilities, and experiences. Some come with very specific skills, others represent their denominations and

others come with experience of governance from other settings. They all have a love for God's Word and a vision for the work that Bible Society in Northern Ireland is involved with.

Our Board of Trustees meet at least four times a year. Before Covid-19 we met in person at Bible house and since March 2020 we have met on Zoom. Mr Tommy Stewart is the Chair of the Board and Rev. Capt. Colin Taylor is in the role of Vice Chair currently.

We currently have 10 members of our Board of Trustees. Our constitution encourages people to serve for a term of office – this is a period of 3 years and individuals can serve for up to three terms as a Board member. Whilst saying goodbye to Trustees who have been with the Bible Society in Northern

“Every Board member has a love for God's Word and a vision for the work that Bible Society in Northern Ireland is involved with.”

Ireland is difficult it is a great thing to be able to welcome new members to the Board of Trustees.

Since 2020 we have said farewell to three Board members who had each served the Bible Society in Northern Ireland for many years. Mr Alan Bridle, Mr Lawson McDonald and Rev. Stephen Lowry all retired from the Board. We were unable to mark their departures like we would have wanted to because of restrictions but we do thank them for all the many years of service and dedication.

We have appointed five new Board members – Rev. Brian Anderson, Ms Sarah Farling, Rev. Karen Salmon, Mr John Stewart and Mrs Rachael Swift. We really appreciate the time and energy that they have already invested and look forward to their leadership in the future.

Could being a member of the Board of Trustees interest you? Do get in touch for a conversation about what is involved.



Volunteer with us!

Could you organise a fundraiser, man a stand at an event, or even help us out in the office for an afternoon? If you have some spare time and would like to help us out, we would love to chat to you. Ring the office on 028 9032 6577 or send an email to info@biblesocietyni.co.uk to find out how you can help out!

Meet the Team



Catherine

General Secretary

I lead the work of the Bible Society NI. I manage the team, work with the Board and build relationships with other partner agencies. I am constantly working to strengthen relationships that feed kingdom growth, whether here at home or on the other side of the world. Part of my role is to contribute to discussions within the United Bible Societies Fellowship. My role is so varied – no two days are ever the same!



Campbell

Office Manager

I'm often asked: "What do you do all day?" Every day is different but usually I do all things administration and finance from processing gifts, claiming gift aid, Scripture sales, database amendments, settling accounts to making tea. There are conversations with supporters or visitors to the office - little golden opportunities getting to know people better. Through all that I do, I hope to implement Colossians 3 v23 so that I am serving rather than "working" so in some ways I haven't really worked for the last 20 odd years!



Andrew

Community Partnerships Manager

Within my role I have the pleasure of creating lots of resources to aid Bible engagement, the joy of meeting with church leaders and supporters, the chance to facilitate local events like our Gathering and the challenge of dreaming and developing opportunities across our local community to grow awareness of our work, and see everyone, everywhere engage with the Bible every day. It is an immense privilege to be able to serve the Church in Northern Ireland (and even further afield) in my everyday work!



Keren

Communications and Fundraising Manager

I've been working with Bible Society NI for 2 and a half years and really love it! I oversee our magazines, appeals, website and online presence, as well as keeping in contact with our global colleagues with regards to projects. It has been amazing to hear of God's work all over the world. One of my favourite parts of my job is creating videos for both our home and international projects. I also love answering the phone and talking to supporters like you!



Home Projects

NORTHERN IRELAND

In Northern Ireland we are incredibly blessed to have access to the Bible. The majority of us are able to freely read and understand it for ourselves. Yet, many people still struggle to read God's Word, they might not know where to begin or not understand the valuable teachings of how we should live as Christians.

It is clear that many people are rejecting religion and God, not growing up with as much exposure to the Bible and the Gospel. Sadly, many people have never read the Bible for themselves and have never had the chance to respond to the Gospel.

At Bible Society Northern Ireland, we are passionate about people actively engaging with the Bible and understanding for themselves the meaning of what God's Word is saying.

Our vision for Northern Ireland is that the Bible Society in Northern Ireland is able to support the church, providing resources that are easily adapted to any setting or congregation. We want to see an increase in Bible reading and Bible literacy throughout our wee country, encouraging both Christians and non-Christians to really think about God's Word and the meaning it has on their lives.

Bibles for Babies

When considering how we could best serve the our community in Northern Ireland in 2022, we felt especially called to supporting the family; through the provision of Scripture and through Bible engagement. As we prayed for guidance, the Bibles for Babies programme was brought to our attention. This project was inspired as a result of talks with the Bible

Society Australia, who also run a similar project called "Bibles for Bubs".

We want to bless every baby born in 2021, and also encourage their parents to read with them God's Word from a young age. We are providing these Bibles free of charge to anyone who registers a baby. We hope that this act of generosity will not only encourage Christian families to read together, but also that it will impact those families who are not from a faith background, especially in a time when Biblical literacy in our country is declining.

Equipping the Church

Not only are we providing free Scriptures to babies born in 2021, but we also have created a wide range of free and affordable resources to help the people of our country read their Bibles.

“ At age 10 I had to learn Psalm 23, Psalm 119 and Romans 8 to be given a Bible in Sunday School. I still have that Bible and many more since. I fell in love with the Scriptures and that is my desire for my granddaughter. I think this is a wonderful initiative. ”

- Michele, who signed her granddaughter up to receive a Bible through Bibles for Babies

Every year we produce our free Daily Bible Reading Guide, a resource designed to take readers through a small chunk of the Bible each day. In 2022, it goes through 47 books of the Bible, including 9 in their entirety. This guide gives a structure to daily Bible reading through short passages, and also provides helpful questions to allow the reader to explore the passage more on their own. We have also created "Where to Look" a resource

which points the reader towards helpful passages that relate to a particular emotion. Both of these resources are free to all, we only ask for a small donation to cover postage on large orders.

We want to make sure that we are able to continue to provide Bibles and our resources for free, or as affordable as possible. We cannot do this without the generous donations of our supporters here in Northern Ireland.

Pray with us:

- + Pray that children, young people, families, individuals and churches will be impacted by the Bible as a result of these projects.
- + Pray for a positive impact on the Bible reading habits of children and families as they use our resources.
- + Pray that more people would come to faith in Northern Ireland as a result of reading and engaging with God's Word.
- + Pray for greater awareness of the work of Bible Society in Northern Ireland within churches across Northern Ireland.

Donate

We would love for you to financially support our work in Northern Ireland:

- + £10 allows us to provide 100 free Daily Bible Reading Guides.
- + £70 will provide a free toddler Bible to 5 children in Northern Ireland.
- + £140 will provide 10 free Bibles for Babies in Northern Ireland.

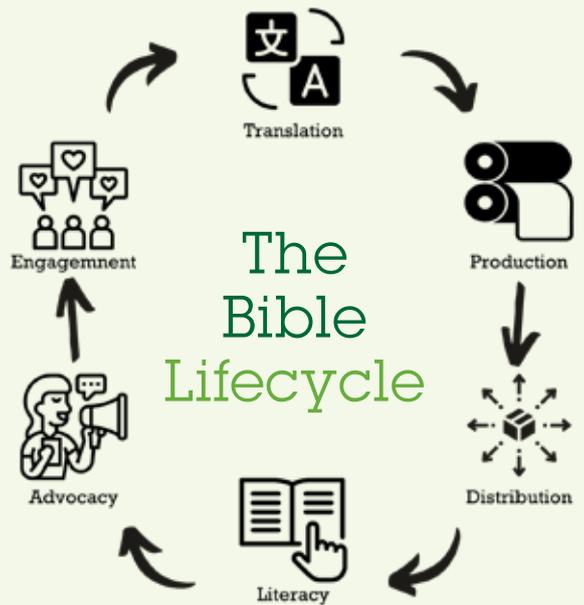
If you would like to donate to this project simply fill out the form that was included with this magazine. You can also donate online on our website at www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/resources/bibles-for-babies/ or scan this QR code with your smartphone.



Our Global Impact

Whilst this Word at Work Magazine has focused on Northern Ireland and the work that we are part of here, we are still very invested in supporting our Bible Society colleagues around the world with their Bible mission work. In the last 10 years Bible Society in Northern Ireland have given more than **£4.25 million** to support Bible mission all over the world.

We aim to support all aspects of the Bible lifecycle – Translation, Publishing, Distribution, Literacy, Engagement and Advocacy, all over the world – in Africa, in the Americas, in Asia and in Europe and the Middle East.



“ More than £4.25 million given to global Bible mission since 2011. ”



Visit our website to find out more about where we support – www.biblesocietyni.co.uk



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