



BIBLE SOCIETY
NORTHERN IRELAND

Wow!

Word at Work

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY IN NORTHERN IRELAND
SUMMER 2022



THE BREAD OF LIFE
PROGRAMME IN PERU

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Welcome

Catherine Little
General Secretary, Bible Society NI

Each time I settle myself to write the welcome to a Word at Work magazine I realise how much has changed in the months since the last one.

Our news has changed from being about Covid in our own context to war, invasion and devastation in another. I have found watching what is happening in Eastern Europe so difficult, watching people who were like us, dealing with Covid a few weeks and months before, be thrown into scenes of devastation.

I have been amazed by our colleagues in the Bible Society of Ukraine – at their resilience and depth of faith as they continue to stay in touch with us through everything that is going on.

We launched an online appeal to support Scripture distribution in Ukraine and the surrounding countries, places like Poland and Hungary who have received so many displaced Ukrainians with open arms into their midst. We have been so blessed by support from individuals and for one church who raised more than £3,000 for Bibles for Ukraine.

Our global fellowship is like a big family, when one is hurting

and in need others help. Like when Covid-19 threatened Bible Societies the response to the war in Ukraine has been a real blessing to those on the front line and most at risk.

Our Word at Work magazine is back to having more of an international focus after our Spring magazine focused on Northern Ireland and our new projects. We are delighted to be able to be involved in whole family Bible engagement here in Northern Ireland especially with our Bibles for Babies project impacting so many homes across our country. There is such a buzz when the volunteers are in the office each Thursday morning as we prepare Bibles for babies who are about to turn 1. We pray for those families and trust that God will draw the families in each home closer to himself through the reading of the toddler Bibles.

These are difficult days and we really appreciate and value your support – our Christian brothers and sisters in Ukraine have prayed Psalm 31 regularly. Let's all join together to 'be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord' (Psalm 31: 24).

Catherine Little

“ Our global fellowship is like a big family, when one is hurting and in need others help.... These are difficult days and we really appreciate and value your support for our Ukrainian brothers and sisters. ”

Local News

Deputations

As Covid restrictions have eased over the past 12 months, it has been wonderful to see more and more churches have been returning to in-person gatherings and meetings. One of the benefits of returning to “normal” has been the return of deputations for our team in Bible House. We love every opportunity to get out on the road to visit churches and organisations, connect with our supporters, and share about the vital work being done by Bible Societies all around the world.

So far in 2022, we have visited churches and organisations from Carrickfergus to Coleraine, Bangor to Belfast, Omagh and the wider North West area.

Our presentations are always tailored to your group and contain inspirational stories and videos of the difference the Bible is making to lives around the world.

We also include latest information on ongoing Bible Translation works, news on Bible Engagement resources you and your church can use, and ways you can support us to ensure more people can have access to God's Word.



If you would like to arrange a speaker from Bible Society NI for your church or group later this summer and into the autumn, why not give our office a call or email us today.

T: 02890 326577
E: info@biblesocietyni.co.uk



'Draw Near to God'

In previous editions of our W@W magazine we have highlighted to you the musical talents and fundraising efforts of Eleanor Crymble, a long-time supporter of Bible Society NI, who recorded and released a CD which raised over £3,500 to support our ministry. Eleanor told us, “Music has always had a special place in my life. When I play I feel God's presence. It is a privilege to share these familiar hymns with others and I pray that as they listen they may know His presence too.”

After the success of “Reach Out and Touch the Lord”, we are very excited to share that Eleanor has released a brand-new CD called “Draw Near to God”, containing a collection of famous hymns and tunes, which help us to recall the words and promises of Scripture. “Draw Near to God” is available to purchase from our office today, with proceeds from sales going directly to Bible Mission.

To get your copy, or for more information, contact us:
T: 02890 326577
E: info@biblesocietyni.co.uk

See us this Summer!

Like many of you, we are delighted that some of Northern Ireland's best known and most loved Bible teaching and Missionary Conventions will be making a return this summer. Our team are very much looking forward to attending these, exhibiting our work, and meeting with you. If you find yourself at Bangor Worldwide between Monday 22nd - Friday 26th August, do come and say hello!



BIBLE ENGAGEMENT FORUM



Catherine and Andrew joined with colleagues from across the Fellowship to discuss Bible Engagement.

As part of the Big Conversations on Bible Engagement taking place across our *United Bible Societies* Global Fellowship, the British and Foreign Bible Society (BFBS) have launched a multi-year global study that will analyse attitudes to the Bible, and measure levels of Bible Engagement across the world.

They plan to survey a range of 1,000-3,000 adults in up to 100

countries – including Northern Ireland. Our team in Belfast is excited to be involved in this ambitious piece of research throughout its duration (2022-2024). We firmly believe that the research being undertaken is a foundational tool that will inform our ongoing conversation as we envisage and discern together a new season for transformational Bible Engagement both at a local and global level.

To best conduct this research and ensure that Bible Societies continue to work together and collaborate on Bible Engagement, BFBS have committed to facilitating seven Bible Engagement Forums across the globe annually throughout the three-year study. Each of these Forums is designed to bring together Bible Societies from similar missiological backgrounds to hear about their contexts and experiences and consider how we can best collaborate moving forward.

Recently, Catherine Little and Andrew Dickson had the opportunity to travel to the first of these Forums at BFBS' headquarters in Swindon, where they participated in discussions with colleagues from BFBS, as well as colleagues from Bible Societies in Australia, Germany, Netherlands and Flanders, New Zealand, Scotland, Canada and the United States.



“ We celebrated that Scripture still speaks today, and that there are many people across our nations and the Church who are passionate about the Bible and hungry to hear God’s voice and discover His help and hope. ”



In an intense two-day Forum, we addressed five “what” questions that lie at the heart of considering Bible Engagement in our local, Northern Ireland, context, as well as the bigger, global picture:

1. What is Bible Engagement?
2. What is the role of the Bible in the Church?
3. What is the view of the Bible in wider society?
4. What ought the role of the Bible Society in Northern Ireland be?
5. What are our hopes and dreams for Bible Engagement in our nation?

Given the similar missiological contexts of the nations present at the Forum, each Bible Society’s answers to the above questions were closely related.

We each recognised that Bible Engagement is more than simply reading Scripture but is rather a dynamic process which engages in studying, hearing, listening and experiencing the words of the Bible that we can encounter Jesus, be transformed by the Holy Spirit, and then carry and apply what we are learning in our everyday lives.

We celebrated that Scripture still speaks today, and that there are many people across our nations and the Church who are passionate about the Bible and hungry to hear God’s voice and discover His help and hope. Yet, we also lamented over things such as individualism, consumerism, postmodernism and many more, which have reduced Bible Engagement and shaped many commonly held views which associate the Bible as being irrelevant, antagonistic, problematic,

and completely at odds with 21st century values. However, despite this, we still have hope. Each Bible Society represented in Swindon still has dreams to see God change the story of Bible Engagement in our nations. Collectively, each Bible Society, including our own here in Northern Ireland, left Swindon committed to:

- + Contributing to building up the Church and fostering greater unity across our nation(s).
- + Having individual churches and denominations see Bible Societies as the primary place for Bible Engagement, translation, as co-partners in both mission and in the research and development of Bible Engagement strategies for local churches and communities.
- + Leading by example and playing our part in helping people of all ages and backgrounds renew their confidence in the Bible.
- + Partnering with the Church to promote the Bible in wider society, that it might be viewed positively once more, with many coming to faith and a new generation fully engaged with the Bible.

We eagerly anticipate the results of the six other Forum conversations to come alongside the first results of BFBS’ surveys later this year. We would very much value your prayers as we participate in this three-year long journey and continue to play our part in God’s Big Story, as we seek to reach everyone in Northern Ireland and around the world with God’s word.



There were plenty of brilliant ideas from the group discussions!

AS SEEN ON TV!

by Catherine Little

'I saw you on TV' was never something I expected to hear from anyone. However, in February I was on TV sharing about our World Day of Prayer Projects - Bibles for Babies, 52 and Daring to Hope.



I went over to the London based studios of TBN UK in January to record an episode of TBN Meets. TBN UK is a Christian TV channel found on Freeview Channel 66 and Sky Channel 582. This opportunity had come about after a member of the TBN UK Team had been in Belfast for an appointment and thought he would find out more about what we did when he saw our office. He was familiar with our colleagues in England and Wales who regularly advertise on TBN and visited during the week that Bibles for Babies was launched, so we were buzzing with new stories to share.

I had the opportunity to share about

Bibles for Babies, 52 and Daring to Hope on TBN - the three new projects connected with World Day of Prayer. The programme was shared several times over a week and generated new and fresh interest in these projects, our work generally and the World Day of Prayer events which took place on the 4th March.

We have been delighted with the response to these new projects here in Northern Ireland. 52 has been printed and is already being used in its new format. Daring to Hope Participants and Leaders Guides are with the printers and the video material is being edited as I write. Bibles for Babies has

had a great response with almost 1,600 Babies registered to receive an age-appropriate Bible for their 1st Birthday, Birthday cards on their 2nd, 3rd and 4th Birthdays and another age-appropriate Bible on their 5th Birthday. We now have a team of almost 20 volunteers who are part of a rota of helpers to wrap Bibles and sign Birthday cards each Thursday morning in Bible House. We have had such positive feedback from parents and grandparents about this project with encouragements for us about how this will help family units build a Bible reading habit.

With all of these projects we want to engage the whole family with the Bible. We want to encourage good Bible reading habits amongst children and young people and help adults learn how the Bible helps them deal with the everyday struggles and challenges of our modern world.

Thank you to all who have sent financial support for these projects, for those of you who have prayed for our work here in Northern Ireland and for everyone who has helped us share about these projects with people they know.



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.

May 29
- June 4

England & Wales Pray for Bible projects which seek to help people engage more with God's Word in England and Wales. Pray specifically for their work among children and young people. Praise God for the financial support they are able to provide to projects all over the world. The team here is led by Chief Executive Paul Williams.

Scotland Pray for the work helping the people of Scotland to engage more with God's Word. Praise God for the many supporters in Scotland that allow the Bible Society here to support Bible projects all over the world. The team here is led by Chief Executive and Chair of Global Council Elaine Duncan.

June
5 - 11

Northern Ireland Praise God that in recent times we have been able to launch more projects here in Northern Ireland. Pray for the Bibles for Babies programme, as well as those who use our Bible engagement resources. The team here is led by GS Catherine Little. Please pray for her as well as Campbell, Andrew, Keren, Suyai and the Board.

Ireland Please pray for the work in Ireland as the Bible Society here works to support the local church through Bible engagement programmes. Praise God for the good relationships with local churches and also with the Bible Society in Northern Ireland. The team here is led by Julia McKinley.

June
12 - 18

USA Praise God for the completion of the full Bible in American Sign Language. This is the first full sign language translation in the world. Pray that it would be a blessing to those who use Sign Language to communicate, and that they would be touched as they interact with God's Word in their heart language. The team here is led by CEO Robert Briggs.

Canada Ask that the Canadian Bible Society would continue to be a good support to their local community, supporting the church with Bible engagement tools. Praise God for the many people in Canada that support the Bible Society both prayerfully and financially. The team here is led by National Director Rupen Das.

Mexico Pray for the work among those with visual disabilities, through the Braille and audio Bible projects. Please remember the translations of the Bible into native languages and those who are still waiting for God's Word in their heart language. Pray for GS Julio Splinker Martinez and his team as they oversee these projects in Mexico.

June
19 - 25

Hong Kong Pray for the Hong Kong Bible Society, as well as the local Christian community as they seek to witness to those in their country. Pray for Bible advocacy and engagement projects, that people in Hong Kong would be interested in what the Bible has to say about their lives. The team here is led by GS Tseun Yuen.

China Praise God for the thriving church in China. Ask that He would bless the work providing free and affordable Bibles to the thousands of Christians still waiting for their own copy. Please remember projects advocating for the Bible. The work here is led by Interim Director Daniel Loh and his team.

Bangladesh Pray for the work in Bangladesh reaching minority people with the Bible using digital mediums. Pray for the work among youth and children, as the Bangladesh Bible Society distributes Scripture materials to them. Pray also for the work empowering women with the Gospel. The team here is led by GS Liton Mrong.

BIBLE-A-MONTH PROJECT JUNE: PALESTINE

It is estimated that around 53% of the population of Palestine are under 18. This is a huge challenge to the Palestinian Bible Society, who hope and pray that the next generation will be a God-fearing, Bible-based people.

The "Child of Bethlehem" project in Palestine is all about engaging children and young people with God's Word. This Bible-based programme runs trips, camps, conferences and special events, all teaching the Bible and Christian values to the young people who attend.

- + Pray for the many children who participate in this project each year. Ask that many would come to faith through it.
- + Pray for this project in light of political tensions, that they would not affect Bible Society work as they teach children about the Bible.
- + Pray for safety of the staff who run this project.



June
26 –
July 2

Singapore

Pray for Bible advocacy in Singapore, teaching why God's Word is important in a modern context. Pray also for work among migrant workers, sharing the Gospel with them. Pray for online and digital media projects promoting Bible engagement. The team here is led by GS Ezekiel Tan.

Malaysia

Pray for work among migrant workers and refugees. The Bible Society of Malaysia is distributing Scripture to these groups. Pray also for the Iban Study Bible, a translation which will help many to study God's Word more deeply. The team here is led by GS Mathew Punnoose.

Philippines

Pray for the Faith Comes by Hearing Bible listening groups that meet around the country to regularly engage with God's Word in audio format. Pray also for the Scriptures for the Deaf project, and the digital audio Bibles for people with visual disabilities. The team here is led by GS Perry Cartera.

July
31 –
Aug 6

Costa Rica

Pray for the Bible Society of Costa Rica as they seek to support the church in teaching the Bible through providing resources and Scriptures. Pray for the family Bibles that are being distributed, that these would help to foster healthy Bible reading habits within the families that receive them. The team here is led by GS Mayra Ugalde.

Panama

Pray for the work making the Bible accessible to people with visual disabilities through the Braille Bible. Pray for the Bible Society of Panama as they work to support local Christians and churches through Scriptures and resources. The team here is led by GS Marco Gómez.

Nicaragua

Ask God to bless the work among indigenous people groups, especially the work translating the Bible and distributing Scriptures. Pray for their work partnering with local churches and missionary organisations, spreading the Gospel and teaching of Christ. The team here is led by GS Freddy Fonseca.

July
3 – 9

Burundi

Pray for the Trauma Healing and reconciliation projects ongoing in this country. Pray for those who will participate, and that God would speak to them through the programme. Pray also for the Million Bibles project, distributing Scripture to people throughout Burundi. The team here is led by GS Marjorie Niyungeko.

Cameroon

There are currently many first translations and revisions of translations ongoing in Cameroon. Pray for these native language translations, and for all those who are waiting for them to be completed. Pray also for the local Faith Comes by Hearing project. The team here is led by GS Luc Gnowa.

Gabon

Pray for the new Fang Bible translation, as well as several other first translations ongoing in Gabon, such as the Kota, Omyènè and Yinzebi languages. Pray for the work among children and young people, distributing Scripture and encouraging them to engage with the Bible for themselves. The team here is led by GS Thierry Mabiala.

July
10 – 16

Cambodia

Praise God for the Learning through Literacy programme that we support here. Ask God to bless the many people who go through this programme, and that they would come to a saving faith in Christ through reading the Bible for themselves. The team here is led by Pisit Heng.

Vietnam

Please remember the Bible engagement projects here for ethnic minorities, as well as the many first translations of the Bible into native languages. Pray for those working on the Tai Don and Muong language New Testament translations. The team here is led by Executive Director Vu Hoang Anh Le.

Thailand

Pray for the translation of Scripture into Thai Sign Language, and for the many deaf Christians who are waiting for this translation. Pray also for the online engagement resources being designed to help make God's Word accessible to a new generation in Thailand. The team here is led by GS Prakich Treetasayuth.

July
17 – 23

Congo

Pray for the many first Bible translations ongoing here. Remember the Kunyi, Beembe and Yaka translations. Pray for those participating in Trauma Healing programmes across the country. Pray for the development of the Gospel of Mark in Sign Language. Pray for the Staff team and Board.

DR Congo

Pray for ongoing translations of the Bible into native languages, and for all those who are waiting to have God's Word in their heart language. Pray also for Scripture engagement programmes encouraging people to read the Bible for themselves. The team here is led by Director of Programmes Bienvenu Masingende.

Chad

Pray for trauma recovery programmes in Chad and for those who have experienced trauma in their lives. Pray that God would use this programme to speak to them. Pray also for the revision of the New Testament in several native languages. The team here is led by GS Roland Koulanoudji.

July
24 – 30

Netherlands Antilles & Aruba

Pray for projects making the Bible accessible to those most vulnerable in this area. Pray for mission development programmes that God would bless these and that many would come to faith through these evangelistic projects. Pray for the projects helping families to read the Bible together. The team here is led by GS Armin Elisa.

Suriname

Pray for the Sranantongo Bible in Braille, as the Bible Society here works to make God's Word accessible to those with visual impairments. Pray for the translation of the Old Testament into Sarnami Hindi, and for the translators working on this project. The team here is led by GS Erny Van Axel.

Venezuela

Pray for the translation of the Bible into the Sign Language of Venezuela. Pray that the Bible Society here would be a light to their community and a support to the local churches and Christian community. The team here is led by Acting Managing Director Loida Gaffaro De Valera.

Aug
14 – 20

Croatia

Pray for the work on the new Croatian Bible, as translators work to make the language more accessible to modern day readers. Pray for the "See and Believe" project translating the Bible into Croatian Sign Language. Pray also for the work among the Muslim population in Croatia. The team here is led by GS Damir Lipovsek.

Serbia

Pray for the literacy work among Romani youth in Serbia, and the impact this will have on the young people who participate in this programme. Pray also for the new translation of the New Testament into modern Serbian, which will be more accessible to modern readers. The team here is led by Executive Secretary Vera Mitic.

Romania

Praise God for projects working with children with Downs Syndrome across Romania. Pray that these projects would be a real blessing to those with disabilities and their families. Pray also for the Healing Wounds of Trauma project, which seeks to provide Trauma Healing through a Bible based programme. The team here is led by GS Emilia Iorgandopol.

Aug
21 – 27

West Indies

Pray for the Bible Society in the West Indies as they seek to support the local church with Scripture and resources. Pray especially for the work among children and young people, teaching them the Gospel and about the Bible. The team here is led by GS Courtney Stewart.

Cuba

Pray for the "Bible for Every Cuban" project, which seeks to provide every person in Cuba with their own copy of God's Word. Praise God for the initial completion of this project to provide 1,000,000 Bibles to Cubans and ask that God would speak to those who have received a copy of His Word already. The team here is led by GS Alain Montano.

Haiti

Pray for the many projects working among children in Haiti. Pray especially for the Scripture distribution project in schools and for Trauma Healing projects. Also remember the programmes which seek to equip churches and church leaders with training and resources. The team here is led by GS Magda Victor.

BIBLE-A-MONTH PROJECT JULY: SRI LANKA

Many Christians in Sri Lanka cannot access the Bible by themselves due to a visual or hearing impairment. The Sri Lankan Bible Society provides audio and Braille Bibles to those with visual impairments, allowing them to access the Bible when they want. They are also working on the translation of the Bible into Sri Lankan Sign Language, allowing those who are deaf to connect and understand God's Word. The written language is often very different to the Sign Language, so this project is vital to Christians whose heart language is the Sri Lankan Sign Language.

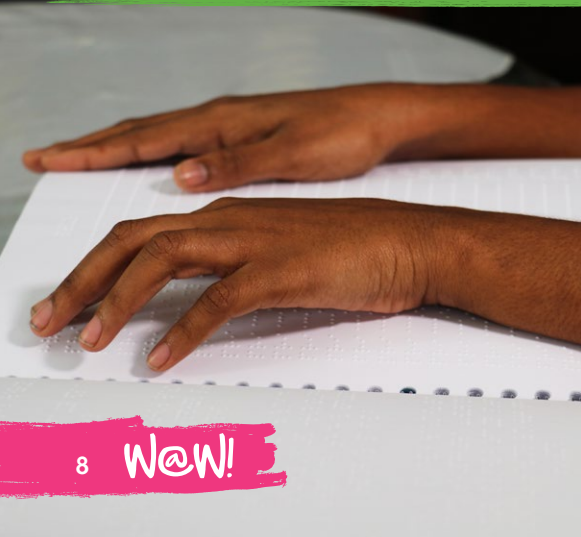
- + Pray for those still waiting for the Bible in an accessible format.
- + Pray for the translators and staff who are working on translating and distributing these Bibles.
- + Praise God that he loves all people, no matter what their disability, and that he wants to speak to them.

BIBLE-A-MONTH PROJECT AUGUST: URUGUAY

The church in Uruguay works with many vulnerable children who are often exposed to serious problems; abandonment, poverty and abuse are common. To support these churches and the children they reach, the Bible Society of Uruguay has created the "Draw My Own Bible" programme.

This programme helps children to learn and understand Bible stories through arts and crafts. They are able to express themselves and learn that they are valued by their Heavenly Father.

- + Pray for the children who attend this programme, that God would comfort them.
- + Pray for the churches carrying out this programme, and for the Sunday School teachers engaging with these young children.
- + Pray for the social situation as a whole in Uruguay, that it would improve and that abuse would stop.



Aug 28 - Sept 3 **Poland**
Pray for the distribution of Bibles among children and youth in Poland. Pray especially for the church here as they practically and spiritually serve Ukrainian refugees fleeing the war. Pray for the distribution of Scripture among these refugees. The team here is led by GS Jadwiga Zalisz.

Sept 11 - 17 **Denmark**
Ask God to bless the church in Denmark and that they would be a good witness to their wider community. Pray for the Bible Society team here as they support the local church through Scripture and resource distribution. Pray that they would continue to have good relationships with local churches. The team here is led by GS Johannes Baun

Sept 18 - 24 **Dominican Republic**
Pray for the work among women who have experienced domestic violence, teaching them about their worth in Christ. Pray also for the Bible in Every Bookbag project, providing children in schools each with a copy of God's Word for themselves. The team here is led by GS Carmen De Acosta.

Sept 25 - Oct 1 **Egypt**
Praise God for the Kingo project in Egypt, which teaches children Bible stories through the character of Kingo the big friendly lion. Pray for the work engaging teenagers with Scripture through competitions and events. Pray also for the work digitalising the Bible for a modern audience. The team here is led by GS Amir Elhamy.

Czech Republic
Pray for good relationships with the local church, and that the Bible Society here will help the Christian community to grow in their own faith and also evangelise to those around them. Pray for church leaders as they use the Scholarly Edition of the Bible to teach their congregations. The team here is led by GS Pavel Novak.

Slovakia
Pray for the work translating the Bible into Slovak sign language for deaf people in Slovakia. Praise God for the passages that have been translated so far. Pray also for the work among older people with visual disabilities, providing them with giant print Bibles that they can read easily. The team here is led by Deputy GS Štefan Ševčík.

Sweden
Praise God for the many generous supporters of the Bible Society in Sweden. Pray for the team here as they share the stories of Bible work around the world with them. Pray that the Bible Society here would be a good support to the local Christian community and the wider church. The team here is led by GS Anders Göranson.

Finland
Pray for the work in Finland advising global translation projects, ask that they would have wisdom as they aid in this vital work. Pray also for the support that the Finnish Bible Society provides to projects on the continent of Africa running literacy programmes for women. The team here is led by GS Markku Kotila.

East Caribbean
Pray for those who are training for ministry in the church. Ask God to bless the Christian community in the East Caribbean, as they reach out with the Bible to those around them. Pray for the Bible Society as they provide Scripture to the Christian community here. Pray for the staff, volunteers and Board members in the East Caribbean.

Puerto Rico
Pray for the Bible Society in Puerto Rico as they support the local church with Bibles and Scripture resources. Praise God for good relationships with the local church, and pray that the staff team can continue to be a support to their community. The team here is led by GS Heriberto Martinez-Rivera.

Jordan
Pray that the Bible Society of Jordan would continue to be able to provide the Word of God to their community. Pray for any political or religious tensions that they may be facing, and ask that God provides them with courage as they share the Bible in their community. The team here is led by GS Munther Al-Namat.

Lebanon
Pray for the work serving the persecuted church in the Middle East, as well as Bible advocacy, peace and justice campaigns. Pray for the work among refugees, providing them with Scripture and aid as they flee war torn countries. Pray especially for the work making the Gospel accessible to children in Lebanon. The team here is led by GS Michael Bassous.

BIBLE-A-MONTH PROJECT SEPTEMBER: HONDURAS

Honduras has been known for many years for its corruption and high crime rate. Nevertheless, the Bible Society of Honduras is speaking into this situation with hope.

The Bible Society of Honduras is working with the police and army in their country, providing free Bibles to those working in the forces. They are also able to go into prisons and provide free Bibles to the prisoners, working alongside local churches to provide spiritual guidance.

- + Pray for the officers who receive Scripture through this project, that it would speak to them personally and that they would come to faith.
- + Pray for prisoners who receive Scripture through this project, that God would similarly speak to them through it.
- + Pray for the safety of Bible Society staff and volunteers carrying out this project.

Sri Lanka Update



In our 2021 summer appeal we highlighted the Accessible Bible projects being run by the Bible Society of Sri Lanka. Passionate about making the Bible more accessible for people with sight and hearing disabilities, the Bible Society is producing a Sri Lankan Sign Language translation and continuing the distribution of Braille and Audio Bibles to schools.

Sri Lankan Sign Language translations

Deafness and poor hearing affects 9% of the Sri Lankan population. For people who are often marginalised by society and poorly educated, the Sri Lankan Sign Language Translation offers an accessible translation to those with a low reading ability. To create this, Bible stories are translated to Sign Language and then recorded onto DVDs.

a facilitator on this important project who has worked on new signs for the translation, has told us of the positive benefits for learning and understanding when the Word of God can be presented in Sri Lankan sign language as the "project helps to teach the Word of God to deaf people and to give them a correct translation" in a personal and meaningful way.



The Sign Language translation is recorded and distributed on DVDs to the deaf community.

Since the time of our summer appeal, when recordings of Parables had been released, the Sri Lankan team has moved the project forward by starting recordings of Jesus' birth, His teachings and His death and resurrection. Christopher,

Braille and Audio Bibles

To help blind and visually impaired school children, the Sri Lankan Bible Society produces Braille and Audio Bibles. The recently completed Sri Lankan Braille Bible translation, which is made up of separately bound books, is now being distributed to blind schools and the work on audio recordings of New Testament books continues to be well received.

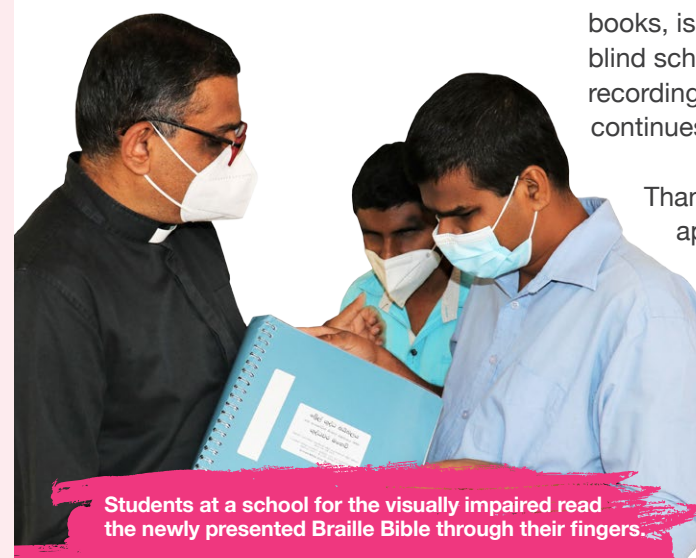
Thanks to support from our appeal last year, the Bible Society has given full sets of the Braille translation to the School for the Visually Handicapped situated in Tangalle, the School for Special Needs

in Chilaw and the Rathmalana School for the blind. Pupils at these schools are mainly Buddhists and so receipt of these Bibles has been an encouragement to Christian teachers who can now encourage students to come and read the Bible in Braille. Kept in the school libraries and available to all students, it is hoped that this openness will allow many more children to encounter God's Word for themselves.

The Audio Bible recordings continued with recordings of Romans, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John and Jude being completed.

Please Pray:

- + Pray for the Bible Society in Sri Lanka as they continue to reach out to those on the margins of Sri Lankan society whose disability often leaves them feeling isolated.
- + Pray for those engaging with the Sign Language translation that God would speak to them through His Word.
- + Pray that the wider distribution of Braille and audio versions will allow many more people to encounter God and come to a personal faith in Christ.



Students at a school for the visually impaired read the newly presented Braille Bible through their fingers.

Reaching Ukrainian Refugees in Poland

Stories of Hope

Millions of people have fled to the countries surrounding Ukraine, most traveling to nearby Poland. The Bible Society here is a very small team, yet they have risen to the challenge of aiding the local church with their work to support refugees.

Recently, a small team of staff from the American Bible Society visited the team in Poland. They had planned to visit since before the war began, and it seemed even more important that they help to tell the stories of Ukrainian refugees and those helping them. Alongside distributing Bibles, Gospels and children's Scripture books, churches are working together to practically meet needs and show God's love.

One of the first things that the American Bible Society team noticed was that many of the Polish people do not refer to Ukrainians as refugees, they call them "guests". There is a tremendous effort to make these people feel welcome and to provide them with shelter and comfort.

Throughout their visit, the team from America was able to visit several churches that the Polish Bible Society works with. One of which was Jarosław's church in Krakow. Jarosław told the team that the people coming to the church "come for consolation. They come to pray. They come to get help". His church is running Polish language courses for Ukrainians, providing resources about their legal status and running a daycare with Ukrainian volunteers.

Another church leader in Krakow, Mateusz, expressed how little people had been able to escape with- "They left behind their Bibles, telephones, shoes, even toothpaste. They just brought their kids and one small bag." His church is providing shelter to 40+ Ukrainians as they prepare to move to other countries, such as Italy and Germany.

Most importantly, these churches are providing Scripture to hundreds of refugees. They have Bibles, Gospels, Children's Bibles and activity books which are freely given out. Combined with the unconditional love that they are showing in such practical ways, the church prays that God will speak into people's lives so that they might come to a saving faith. The Bible Society in Poland have enough Scripture to last for another 2 months, and additional Scripture production has already begun by the United Bible Societies.

Very quickly Polish churches realised that clothing was a real need for these people. They want to uphold the dignity of their guests, collecting as many new or nearly new items of clothing to distribute. They set a space up as a store, with clothing racks and shelves, so people did not have to rummage in piles, bags or boxes. They refer to the store as "Narnia" in reference to the coats the Pevensie children take from the wardrobe in the Chronicles of Narnia. These free clothes are another very practical way the church is showing God's love.



The Bible Society Staff with local church leaders in Poland.



Viktoriia

Viktoriia, a Ukrainian refugee in Poland, wants to serve God wherever He takes her.

“ Even when we are without our homes, we are not without our God. ”

Viktoriia is a Ukrainian Christian. When the war broke out, she travelled from Ukraine to Romania, to Hungary, and then to Poland. She has been keen to share God with those that she has met along her journey, telling people of the hope she has, despite the circumstances. She told our colleagues - "I served my God in Ukraine, and I am ready to do it here in Poland. He prepared me for this opportunity. Even when we are without our homes, we are not without our God."

Recently, Viktoriia has been helping to distribute Bibles to fellow refugees. She shares the Gospel with them as she does so, telling of the hope she has in Christ and the love of her Heavenly Father. She says, "I am inspired by Job 19:25, "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth", a verse that reminds us of the sovereignty of our Redeemer during these uncertain times.



Pray for the situation in Ukraine:

- + Mateusz, one of the church leaders from Krakow, asks us to "pray for more people. People to talk with and people to pray with."
- + Pray for wisdom for church leaders, as they shepherd not only their own flock, but hundreds of others now needing their help.
- + Pray that God would make the production of more Scripture easy. That there would be no obstacles in producing more Bibles.

Hosting?

If you are hosting a Ukrainian family in Northern Ireland, please ring the office and we can discuss providing Bibles for your guests. We are only able to provide Bibles to people being hosted in Northern Ireland at this time. The YouVersion smartphone app also allows you to access the full Bible in Ukrainian, as well as many other languages.

If you would like to support the work in Ukraine and the surrounding countries, please visit: www.biblesocietytni.co.uk/2022/03/07/ukraine-bringing-hope or scan this QR code with your smartphone.



This local church has set their clothing bank up like a shop in an effort to preserve the dignity of those using it.

Summer Appeal

The Bread of Life

PERU

For over nineteen years, the Peruvian Bible Society has been running the “Pan de Vida” or “Bread of Life” project. The Bread of Life programme provides a nutritious breakfast and a Bible lesson every weekday to some of the poorest children in Peru.

Currently, there are nearly 1,200 children enrolled in this project, which operates in the rural communities of Cusco and areas of Lima: Manchay-Pachacamac, San Genaro, Cajamarquilla and Cantagallo. The families these children are from are often disadvantaged. Parents are unable to properly provide for their families. For many of these children the breakfast they receive at the Bread of Life programme will be the only food they have that day.

Alongside receiving physical food, these children are spiritually fed too. A good breakfast to start the day means these children can focus well in school, while they have the right nutrients to grow and become stronger, but most importantly, they learn about the Bible and their Heavenly Father. The Peruvian Bible Society works closely with local church partners to facilitate these lessons, including stories, activities and songs.



The Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on the communities that this project operates in- many parents were unable to work to provide for their families and were in desperate need. Thankfully, the Peruvian Bible Society was able to get special permissions from the government to travel during lockdowns, providing food packages and Scriptures to those families who needed it most.

We wanted to share the testimony of two boys who have benefited from the Pan de Vida (Bread of Life) project- Elio (10) and Juliño (15).

In the Populated Centre of Huaccaycancha lives Elio and his family. Huaccaycancha is at 3729 meters above sea level and is located in the Cusco region. It is one of the communities to which the Bread of Life programme reaches, bringing joy and hope to the children

here. Waiting for the Bread of Life volunteers, children with their parents go out to the road to wait for them. In the cold they wait for the blessing of both physical and spiritual food. Their hearts overflow with joy when they see the truck arrive, as they jump and laugh and hug the volunteers!



Handing out food

Elio

Elio is 10 years old and is one of the children who participates in the Bread of Life programme.

“I am very happy because I am participating in Bread of Life. When I received the Bible it was a surprise for me because I had never been given such a beautiful and special book. When I read the Bible for the first time I felt very good and I really like reading it. I always go to my classes, I don’t want to miss because I learn from Jesus.”

Juliño

Juliño, 15, attended Bread of Life classes from the age of 9. He now helps to teach the children in his local area Bible stories as part of this project. He recently shared his testimony with our colleague:

“Since I started attending Bread of Life, I liked the Bible stories so much that I was always the first to arrive to class. Something that made me very happy was receiving a Bible, I had never received such a special gift!”

In the classes I have learned that God is always with me and that he is happy when we are obedient to his teachings. I liked the classes so much that now that I am 15 years old, I teach the Bible to the children in my community. I am happy to support the Pan de Vida programme by teaching and I want to continue learning more.”



Elio

Pray with us:

Please join us as we pray for the Bread of Life project:

- + Praise God for the privilege of sharing the Gospel with these children in such a practical way.
- + Pray for the children who are involved in this programme, that they would come to faith in Christ through it.
- + Pray for the staff as they travel and facilitate this project. Pray especially for safety, as Peru continues to cope with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Donate

You can also support this project financially through a gift:

- + £15 could provide a child with a **nutritious breakfast and Bible class for 3 weeks.**
- + £35 could provide **Scripture books and resources to 25 children.**
- + £100 could provide **60 people with a New Testament** each.

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/peru-bread-of-life/ or scan this QR code with your smartphone.



Resources for You

In our previous edition of W@W, we highlighted our excitement about soon being able to share two brand-new Bible Engagement resources: "52" and "Daring to Hope". We are thrilled that both publications are now available for purchase from our website and our office.

52

52 is an all-age, one-year long Bible Study resource designed to help readers discover even more of the Bible's BIG story, as they explore 28 Old Testament and 24 New Testament passages. Laid out in a user-friendly format, 52 is packed full of simple study questions, fun activities and challenges, short prayers, memory verses and lots more. Previously, 52 was available only as an online download, but we are now thrilled to have this resource printed in a 240 page, one-volume, A4 book.



Get a copy!

To order your copy of 52 (£15, plus £3.50 postage and packaging), visit:
www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/resources/52



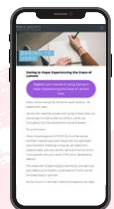
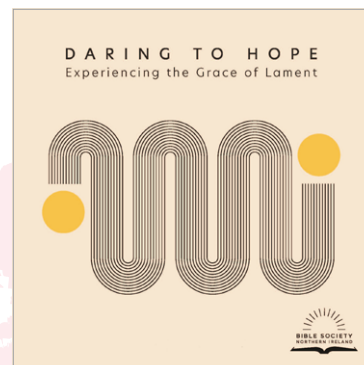
For orders of 5 or more books, contact our office:
T: 02890 326577

Daring to Hope: Experiencing the Grace of Lament

Across Northern Ireland, many people are facing up to an avalanche of psychological, emotional and spiritual pains.

These realities cannot simply be swept away or ignored. People need to be given time and space to acknowledge their suffering and struggles, whilst also pointing them towards the help and hope of Jesus.

This is what Daring to Hope, a brand-new, five session small group resource is all about. Journeying deeply into the Psalms, each Daring to Hope session combines a mix of icebreakers, Bible study, video teaching, as well as spaces to reflect and develop practices of lament. It is our prayer that this resource will not only encourage people to rediscover the biblical practice of lament but allow them to experience the hope and grace of God to be found in lament.



WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN RUNNING A PILOT DARING TO HOPE GROUP THIS SUMMER?

Register your interest by completing the form at www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/resources/daring-to-hope or give Andrew a call at our office on 02890 326577.



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