



# W@W!

## Word at Work

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY IN NORTHERN IRELAND  
AUTUMN 2018



**POLICE AND PRISON GUARDS IN HONDURAS ARE RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD. YOU CAN HELP. PAGES 14-15.**

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Autumn 2018



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General Secretary, Bible Society NI

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Cover photo: Members of the Police Force in Honduras receiving Bibles of their own. More on pages 14-15.

During some time off this summer I went back to my roots... literally. I grew up on a farm in Fermanagh; that is where my mum and dad live and still where I call home. In July the 'front field' was ploughed and prepared for reseeded by my dad. Some of this preparation was completed by me – bending over and picking things up that didn't need to be there and that would have got in the way of the new seeds.

As we picked up stones and pieces of old grass we also came across 'treasures' long since forgotten about. We found pieces of broken glass and pottery, a golf ball, a drill bit, an empty crisp packet from 1973 and a very well-worn nail brush. Not exactly valuable treasure but still very unexpected and a cause for delight.

I am very familiar with that field; I look at it every time I'm home. I've spent time in it over many years but I had no idea these things were there. It made me reflect on the Bible – I am very familiar with the Bible. I look at it every day but how often do I miss

the 'treasure' that is hidden in there because I don't spend enough time or look deeply enough?

Earlier this year I visited Cuba. A place which has a rich history but an even richer future because of the 'One Million Bibles' distribution project that we have supported. There are still Christians in Cuba who don't have their own Bible. Imagine the time they will spend looking for the treasure that the Bible holds when they get a copy. You can read more about this visit on pages 12 and 13.

Less than 10% of the world's languages have a complete Bible; many languages have no Scripture available at all. Every year we support the long and difficult process of Bible translation in places around the world – you can read more about this on page 6. Imagine the joy of having a new part of the Bible to read for the first time in your language – hearing God speak in your language for the first time.

We are so grateful for your ongoing support. Together we change the world for people by what we do.

Thank you

*Catherine*



Catherine had the joy of taking part in Bible distribution in Cuba at the very end of the 'One Million Bibles' project. Read more on pages 12-13.

# The Extra Mile

Lots of people 'go the extra mile' to make Bible Society NI what it is. From our own Catherine running a half marathon, to Board members giving their free time and expertise, this year even saw a theatre production. These are just some of the people who put great effort in to sharing God's Word!

## A Proud Moment

Crossing the finishing line of the Edinburgh Half Marathon was one of my proudest moments! I'd only ran a few 10K races in the past before my friend suggested that we train and run the Edinburgh Half marathon... the challenge was accepted.

As I ran along in the drizzly conditions of Edinburgh in May this year I thought back to the people I had met in Cambodia during my visit in June 2017. I remembered the people who were persevering to learn to read their own language so that in time they could read and understand the Bible. At times it felt like perseverance for me to keep going but I'm so glad I did; the feeling of having completed something that before seemed impossible was just wonderful.

Thank you to everyone for their support and encouragement. We raised over £750 for the literacy project in Cambodia.

## What a Performance!

In April, Bible Society NI staff got to spend an evening at the theatre. A drama group from Dungannon Methodist Church were putting on an original production called '5 Ordinary People who Changed the World'. One of these stories was that of Mary Jones, telling the audience how the Bible Society movement began right back in the 19th century. We were so impressed by the talent that we saw on stage and behind the scenes.

A huge thank you to Eleanor Crymble from Cookstown who wrote and produced the play. It is wonderful to see how people can use their talents to raise awareness of the work of Bible Societies around the world. Proceeds from the evening of over £2,000 were kindly donated to Bible Society NI. Thank you to all who volunteered and made this a wonderful night



Catherine after completing the Edinburgh Half Marathon in aid of literacy projects in Cambodia.



Some of the cast from '5 Ordinary People who Changed the World' by a drama group from Dungannon Methodist Church.



Members of the Bible Society NI Board (from left): Mr Lawson McDonald; Mr Alan Bridle; Mr James Diffin; Miss Anne Taylor; Mr Thomas Stewart; Mrs Doris Dugan; Rev Capt Colin Taylor; Rev Stephen Lowry; Mrs Nicola Taylor; Rev Richard Kerr and Miss Joy Scott.

## New faces on the Bible Society NI Board

Like all charities, Bible Society NI have a Board of Trustees who oversee the strategy and overall direction of our work. These people all volunteer their time and bring a range of skills, experiences and backgrounds to our work.

Recently a few new people have joined our Board. Doris Dugan, James Diffin and Thomas Stewart have all volunteered their

time to help with the overall direction and governance of Bible Society NI.

Would this be something you would be interested in? Do you have experience in governance, fundraising, marketing for example? Do get in touch with us at the office if this is an area that you could add your support to.

## TIME OUT: Acts

TIME OUT Magazine was printed again this summer in partnership with many different youth agencies from across Northern Ireland. This year we published the book of Acts for young people to explore the story of the early church, the amazing journeys of Paul and of course the impact of the apostles on the world as they knew it.

TIME OUT encourages young people to really think through the text, key verses are highlighted and useful additional information included. It encourages readers to respond to what they have read using a range of Bible engagement methods.

Increasingly young people do not develop the discipline of reading God's Word regularly. We hope that TIME OUT will go some way in helping the young people who use this to get into the habit of reading the Bible well.



## It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas...

We have already begun thinking about Christmas and New Year resources – would you believe that next year's Daily Bible Reading Guide and Bible-a-month calendars are well under way?

**Keep an eye out for Greatest Gift 2018**, our alternative Christmas Gift Catalogue. This will be posted in November. Feel free to give us a ring if you don't usually receive a copy and we will get one to you.

### Association of Mission Societies Carol Service.

It was great to be part of this last year and we are looking forward to it again. Do come along and enjoy hearing about what God is doing through various mission agencies to spread the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ. This will be in Lisburn Cathedral on Wed 28th November at 7.30pm.



## Play it by Ear

We're excited to be partnering with Play it by Ear in a new Bible resource. Play it by Ear are a Northern Ireland based drama company who seek to share God's Word in a fun and creative way.

We met up with Ross and Chris to chat about the possibility of working together and we got really excited about what we could do to bring the Bible alive. At the moment dramas are being filmed and material put together that you will be able to use in your church or organisation.

Watch this space for news of this great new Bible engagement resource!

## Special Bibles Twinned

In June we were invited to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and to the Methodist Conference to present Bibles to the new Presbyterian Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen and the new Methodist President, Rev Billy Davison. This was a special moment when we placed God's Word into the hands of these men, praying that in the coming year it would be the truth of Scripture that would guide, equip and sustain them.

This year however was slightly different because these two Bibles had been twinned. Dr McMullen's Bible is twinned with one in Cuba, and Rev Davison's Bible is twinned with one in Togo. Giving the gift of these Bibles in Northern Ireland has enabled two people in other countries to receive Bibles as well. This could be the first Bible they will have ever owned.

There are now over 1,000 Bibles in Northern Ireland that have been twinned with Bibles in Cuba, China and Togo. Find out how to twin your Bible on our website: [www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/get-involved/give](http://www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/get-involved/give)

# NH

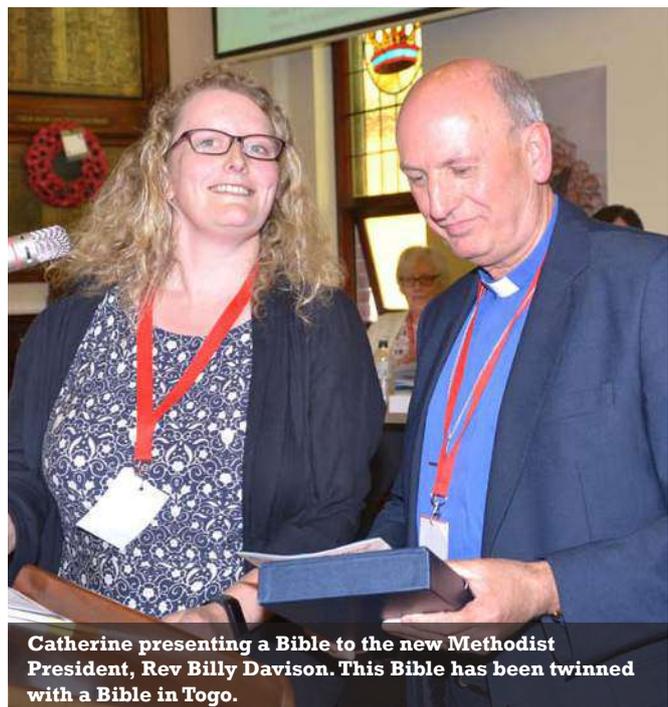
newhorizon

## Summer Events

Over the summer it was great to get along to New Horizon, Castlewellaan Methodist Holiday Week and Bangor Worldwide Missionary Convention, setting up displays and talking to people about our work. We had the opportunity to spend an evening with the teenagers at Castlewellaan, encouraging this age group to get involved with mission.

It was wonderful to have Dina Katanacho from the Arab Israeli Bible Society join us in Bangor. Hearing about her work in Israel challenges our approach to mission in our own communities.

Read more about her work in our next edition of Word at Work.



**Catherine presenting a Bible to the new Methodist President, Rev Billy Davison. This Bible has been twinned with a Bible in Togo.**

# Our Role in Bible Translation

## A Local Legacy, Another Language

It's amazing to think that one Northern Irish lady started the translation of the New Testament for the Tinggian people in the Philippines. How did she do that? She left a gift in her will in 2017 which was used to ensure that this project got set up and under way!

There are around 54,000 speakers of the Tinggian language but providing them with a New Testament is tricky as the language has 10 different dialects. The tribes reached a solution by selecting two dialects to form the basis of a common Tinggian translation. This means that one translation should provide the people with a New Testament that can be understood by all 10 dialects.

The staff at the Philippine Bible Society say "the Gospel of Mark in Tinggian-Inlaud was publicly launched in February 2016, and was received with majestic community celebrations. The goal now is to translate the complete New Testament."

## Just One of Many

The translation in the Philippines is one of many projects that are being undertaken by the United Bible Societies. A document called 'UBS Translation Roadmap' was produced earlier in the year, laying out the goal of reaching over 600 million people with God's Word by the year 2038. That means that over 1,200 languages will need to have Bible translation work carried out.

## What can we do?

As each Bible Society works within their own national boundaries, Bible Society NI do not have staff directly engaged in translation work. Our role is to help people here to understand the importance of Bible translation, and so encourage prayer and financial support to enable this vitally important work to move forward.

Along with the project in the Philippines, we are currently helping support Bible translation in Albania (see page 11 for more), Côte d'Ivoire, India, Uganda and Venezuela, as well as a Study Bible translation in Swaziland and the Lithuanian Sign Language translation. Each of these projects has their own challenges and requirements. The Bible Society in India for example, are actually working on 25 languages at once.

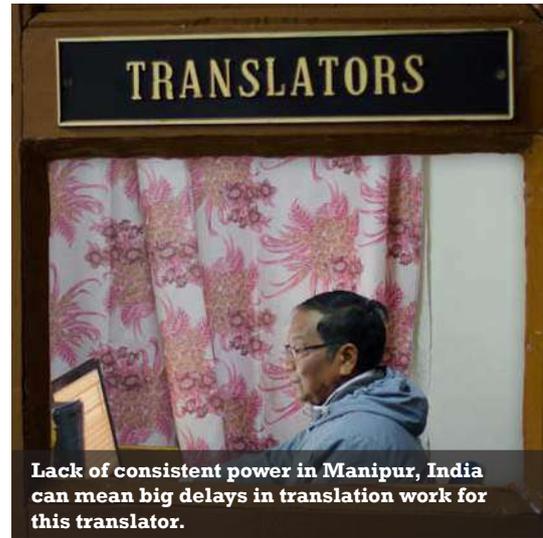
**Leaving a gift to Bible Society NI in your will could spread the Word of God to people who are still waiting.**

While Bible translation might be hard for most of us to relate to, we know without question how vital it is that people have God's Word. That's why we are so thankful that we work as part of the United Bible Societies who provide translation experts to help national teams undertake new projects. We are also thankful for partner organisations that Bible Society teams often work so closely with.

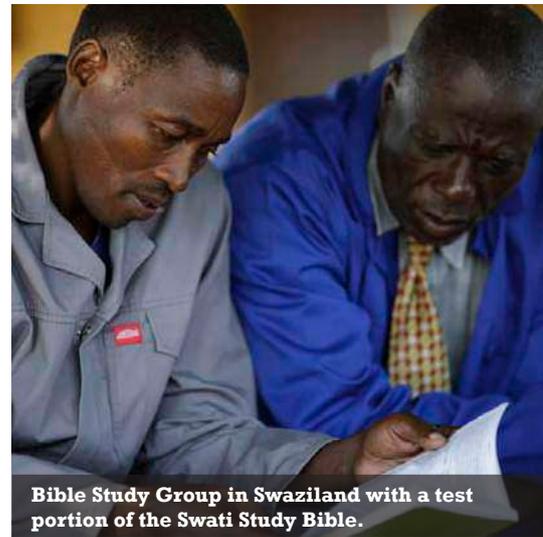
And of course, we are truly grateful for you, our wonderful local supporters who stand with us and other Bible Societies as work continues in the task of bringing God's Word to all people in a language they can easily understand.



**Tinggian Translation team working in the Philippines.**



**Lack of consistent power in Manipur, India can mean big delays in translation work for this translator.**



**Bible Study Group in Swaziland with a test portion of the Swati Study Bible.**



**Bible dedications in Uganda attract huge crowds and much rejoicing!**

# P@W!

## Prayer at Work

PULL OUT AND KEEP PRAYER GUIDE

AUTUMN 2018

**“Don’t be weary in prayer; keep at it; watch for God’s answers, and remember to be thankful when they come.”**

Colossians 4.2 (The Living Bible)

## Watch for God’s Answers

Writing from a prison cell, Paul took time to reinforce the importance of persistent prayer, reminding the readers to ‘keep at it’. Not only that, but he tells the Colossians to ‘watch for God’s answers’. Paul is filled with expectation that God would act in response to their prayers.

What a wonderful message of certainty and faith from a man imprisoned for preaching the truth. The call to be thankful ‘when they come’ adds to the confidence with which we are to approach God with our prayers.

We must come to God persistently, with full expectation and with thankfulness for all he has done and all he will do.

SEP 16-22

**Niger** A small team, led by acting CEO Yaye, work in this strongly Islamic country. Pray for all the efforts to make God’s Word known through FCBH, literacy work, Trauma Healing programmes, translation work and a youth and children’s programme. Pray for good church relations, encouragements, protection and provision in this often hostile place.

**Nigeria** Pray that the distribution projects will bring hope to those who have been displaced and transform many Nigerians. Ask for God’s protection on the staff members who work throughout the country led by GS Dare Ajiboye. Pray also for work on the Nigerian Sign Language Bible and the Literacy programme.

**Algeria** Pray for Ali Khidri who, until recently, was the only staff member in Algeria. Ask for God’s protection on him and his new colleague as they often work under threat. The main focus of the ministry here is distribution

of Scripture to those who are requesting it through churches or as a result of TV and Radio Broadcasts.

SEP 23-29

**Venezuela** Please pray for wisdom and opportunity for Executive Secretary Javier Chacon and his team, despite the legal restrictions. Pray for openings for increased distribution. Pray for ongoing translation into Venezuelan Sign Language as well as a number of indigenous languages. Pray also for the Bread of Life Project that brings a daily meal and Bible teaching to hungry children.

**Colombia** Praise God for the team in Colombia led by Executive President Diana Leal. Pray for the resources for Theological Colleges and students, that this will help build strong Christian leaders. Pray also for the two ongoing OT translation projects into indigenous languages and for great opportunities to distribute Scripture.

**Suriname** Pray for GS Erny van Axel and the team who are also responsible for ministry in Guyana and French Guiana. Thank the Lord for the completion of the full Bible into Suriname Javanese. Pray for the five translation projects currently running. Ask God to bless the Trauma Healing ministry for women and children and the prison distribution.

## Thank God for answering prayer and changing lives.

## Terms and 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.

**GS:** General Secretary.

**CEO:** Chief Executive Officer.

**OT/NT:** Old/New Testament.

## Bible-a-month Project September: Austria

The journey of a refugee can be long, difficult and dangerous. For most, the destination does not feel like home – they have left behind property, possessions and loved ones. In Austria the Bible Society is working with churches to ensure that refugees feel welcomed. Many are finding help and support in church gatherings and drop-in centres. The requests keep coming for Bibles and the Bible Society is so happy to be able to provide them.

- Pray for the thousands of refugees in Austria, that during this most difficult time in their lives they would find hope and guidance in the truth of God’s words.
- Pray that churches and the wider society would show hospitality to refugees and asylum seekers. Pray that the Bible Society would be able to work with churches and organisations to continue providing the Bible to people who ask for it.
- Praise God that many refugees are coming to Jesus and getting baptised. Pray that these new Christians would find a church and community to love them and help them.



This month £5 will give a New Testament to a refugee in Austria.

Donate by text: send **BAMC18E5** to 70070

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## SEPT 30-OCT 6

**Denmark** GS Birgitte Larsen and team work to encourage Bible engagement in this increasingly secularised country. Pray that school materials and youth resources would be widely used and that the Bible Society presence at the Book Fair in October would have a deep impact. Pray for strong church relations and successful fundraising for support of international ministries.

**Norway** Please pray for the final stages of the new Bible translation into Northern Sami and the translation projects into Lule Sami and Southern Sami. Pray too for Bible publication and distribution. Pray for GS Ingeborg Mongstad-Kvammen and the team as they build partnerships with churches to help people engage with the Bible and support Bible Society ministry.

**Sweden** Each year the 'Adventures of the Bible' school project reaches 30,000 10-11 year old pupils. Pray it's reach will increase to 50,000 pupils over the next two years. Pray also for the impact of this project as it has been adapted for the Balkans. Give thanks for the support of Swedish donors and pray for the team led by Mr. Anders Blåberg.

## OCT 7 – 13

**Puerto Rico** Pray for the team led by GS Heriberto Martinez-Rivera as they work to make the Bible available to communities who are often left devastated

following hurricane season. Pray that Bible distribution would lead people into deep faith in Jesus. Give thanks for strong partnerships with churches and other Christian agencies, that through them many will be reached.

**Haiti** Ask God to help GS Magda Victor and team as they continue spreading the Bible message. Pray for the translation of the Study Bible into Haitian Creole and for their literacy project. Pray too for the fight against domestic violence and the Trauma Healing programme. Thank the Lord for allowing the Bible to reach different audiences.

**Dominican Republic** Thank God for the opportunities to distribute His Word including the "Bibles for Weapons" project. Pray for each person who set down a weapon and took a Bible in its place. Ask for God's blessing also on the children and young people receiving God's Word. Pray for the board and staff led by GS Carmen Checo de Acosta.

## OCT 14 – 20

**Finland** Pray for the work that goes into communicating the mission of the Bible Society to churches and individuals. Give thanks for the fundraising for ministry around the world and ask that God would strengthen this work. Pray for openings to make God's Word known and for partnerships that extend the kingdom. GS Markku Kotila leads this team.

**Faroe Islands** Please pray for the new translation of the NT aimed at young people and new

believers. Pray for GS Gunnar Nattestad and the board as they work to make the Bible known across 16 inhabited islands. Ask God to direct in new ways that will spread His Word.

**Iceland** Pray for the Board, especially the new members, and GS Gudmundur Brynjolfsson as they work to strengthen the position of the Bible Society. Ask God to help them as they make the Bible's message more widely known across this country, especially among young people and children. Pray too for strong connections with the churches.

## OCT 21–27

**Lesotho** Thank God for the new board that took office and for the 50th Anniversary Celebrations that took place in 2017. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom for GS Inahaneng Tsekana, the board and staff team as ministry continues. Thank God for good relationships with churches. Pray for wisdom in fundraising and distribution programmes.

**South Africa** Praise God for every Bible distributed through the various programmes including Bibles for Grade 7 learners, prisoners, and the poor. Give thanks for progress made with Bible translation projects. Pray also for the literacy programmes and that more people will become aware of the Bible Society and the work they do. Pray for CEO Dirk Gevers, the board and staff team.

**Swaziland** Pray for GS Ngcebo Mbuli and team. Pray for the ongoing work on the first Swati Study Bible. Ask God to bless

the distribution of Large Print Bibles and for the FCBH and Trauma Healing programmes. Pray for the youth and children's ministries and for the 'Bible in the Soccer Field' tournaments encouraging people to engage with God's Word.

## OCT 28–Nov 3

**The Gulf** Please pray for the Scripture distribution programmes targeting migrant workers and for the literacy programme. Pray for the storytelling training, for Bible distribution to young people and children, and for the International Book Fair in Bahrain. Bible Society in the Gulf covers seven countries in the Arabian Peninsula: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

**Iran (in diaspora)** Although offices are currently outside Iran, the team work in the hope that they can one day return home. Pray for Executive Director Nahid Sepehrifard and team who are committed to distributing Persian Bibles to Iranians wherever they may be. Pray that Scripture will reach new believers and that the Trauma Healing and Bible Revision programmes will be blessed.

**Iraq** Please pray for peace and safety so that Christian refugees can return to their homelands. Pray also for the distribution of Holy Bibles to reach many non-Christians, and for the Trauma Healing sessions that try to help people facing difficult moments. Pray for Nabil Omiesh as he leads the ministry in this hard place.

## Bible-a-month Project October: Rwanda

In Rwanda, people who have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS are often abandoned by their families, left isolated and alone. The Bible Society of Rwanda's Good Samaritan programme is showing love and kindness to those who suffer, giving them the care and teaching that they need. Alongside this the Bible Society is working with churches to educate them in HIV/AIDS, helping them understand the disease and teaching compassion and mercy.

- Pray for those who are infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Pray that the medicine needed would be available and that healing and belonging would be found in God.
- Pray for the important work that the Bible Society is doing with churches in Rwanda. Ask God to give them compassion for those suffering and to welcome those who are lonely.
- Thank God for the field visits and training sessions that staff have already carried out this year. Pray that people and churches will be equipped to continue the Good Samaritan programme in their community.



This month £5 will help give a Bible to someone in Rwanda who is hurting.

## NOV 4-10

**North Korea** Due to political and economic restrictions, people do not have access to the Bible and cannot read God's Word. Please pray that the Word of God may reach North Korea where the Gospel is forbidden, and that churches may take root and be revived through His Word.

**South Korea** Pray for GS Jae Min Ho and the whole team. Pray for the new Bible translation that has been underway since 2012. Pray that it will progress well so the next generation of Bible readers will be able to understand and engage better with God's message.

**Singapore** Pray for the Bible Engagement and Advocacy programmes throughout the year. Pray that Christians will grow in their love and understanding of the Word of God and that non-believers will come to saving faith in Christ. Pray for GS Ezekiel Tan and team who are also responsible for ministry to Brunei.

**Malaysia** Pray for the team led by GS Mathew Punnoose. Ask God to bless their ongoing translation and the work on producing a Study Bible in a local language. Pray for Bible distribution in this country and for the literacy classes to women who are marginalised or from minority communities.

**Pray with expectancy.  
God is at work!**

## NOV 11-17

**South Sudan** Please pray for the team led by Executive Secretary Edward Kajivora as they minister in a tumultuous time in this young country. Pray for their Trauma Healing and Good Samaritan programmes as well as literacy work and emergency relief to displaced people. Please pray for peace in this nation so that people can live in safety and peace.

**Sudan** Thank God for the ongoing translation projects into a number of different languages. Pray for good progress so that many more people might soon have access to God's Word. Pray too for the Trauma Healing programme for all ages. Ask for wisdom and blessing on the board, team and Executive Secretary Ismail Abdulrahman Kanani.

**Chad** Praise God for the Bible Society ministry in this country led by Roland Koulanoudji. Please pray that the Bible will impact different generations, especially young people and children. Pray for strengthening partnerships with churches and Christian organisations. Ask God to provide all the needs for ministry and to guide the team in wisdom.

**Mali** Praise God for several ongoing NT translation projects as well as a Bible Revision with study notes into the Bamanan language. Pray also for the Trauma Healing and FCBH programmes. Pray for Executive Secretary Jacques Dembélé and the team who work to make God's Word known.

## NOV 18-24

**Madagascar** Pray that GS Hubert Rakotoarivony and team would be strengthened after a difficult period. Pray for funding to rebuild their headquarters and that local Christians would be inspired to support the ministry. Ask God to use their FCBH and literacy projects to have a lasting impact on communities.

**Mozambique** Pray for an end to hostility so that people can live in peace. Pray for literacy, FCBH and Good Samaritan Programmes as well as the creation of Bible Society Hubs throughout the country. Thank God for three recent Bible launches and pray for continuing translation projects. Ask God to bless the work of the team led by Executive Secretary Valente Tseco.

**Mauritius** Pray for Officer-in-Charge Anne-Marie Méyépa and team as they work across the four islands to the east of Madagascar. Pray for the translation of the Gospels into Reunion Creole and the translation of the OT into Morisyen, the main language of Mauritius.

**Seychelles** Pray for the youth and children's programme highlighting the danger of drugs and substance abuse and for the FCBH and Trauma Healing programmes. Please pray for potential donors to support the projects locally and for incredible success in terms of lives changed. Pray for Executive Secretary Margaret Maillet and the board.

## NOV 25-DEC 1

**Nicaragua** Give thanks for the ministry to stand against domestic violence and for the distribution of God's Word. Pray for the ministry to children in hospital suffering from cancer, and their families. Give thanks for the partnerships with churches that enables visitation, prayer and Bible distribution to these vulnerable people. Pray for GS Freddy Fonseca and team.

**Panama** Please pray for GS Marco Gómez and team as they work to reach children who are living in high risk areas where they may end up living rough, joining gangs or worse. Ask God to open doors and provide funding for Bible translation and distribution. Pray for strong partnerships and good church relations.

**Costa Rica** Pray for the progress of Bible distribution in a secular society and for the translation project for the Ngöbe language speakers in the south of the country. Pray that the work with the churches will promote Bible distribution and engagement. Pray for the team led by GS Mayra Ugalde.

**Guatemala** Pray for GS Saúl Urizar and the team working to spread God's message. Praise God for the youth and children's programme working to reach children of all ages and young people who are at risk of gang culture or abuse. Pray for the ministry to the deaf and for the translation work for indigenous languages.

## Bible-a-month Project November: Peru

High up in the Andes the Quechua people are learning how to read. For years illiteracy has been an issue and the Bible Society is tackling it. Bible based literacy classes have been set up and men, women and children are all learning how to read. Transita says, "I used to take the Bible to church, but I didn't know how to read. Now I can read the Bible... I am very grateful to God and the Peruvian Bible Society for teaching me to read."

- Pray for those who are learning to read and write, that they would have patience and understanding in their lessons.
- Regional coordinators travel for days in the mountains to work with literacy groups. Pray for safety as they travel and for encouragement when they meet the groups.
- Levels of domestic violence are high in this area of Peru. Pray that, as people engage with the Bible, they will understand that they are children of God and know how to show that to others.



This month £5 will help to provide a Quechua Bible to someone in a literacy class.

**Morocco** Pray for those working here on projects related to Bible translation, print and digital publishing and distribution to churches and migrants. There is a shortage of Bibles and churches are in need of many more. Pray too for the work of following up seekers and discipling new believers in full cooperation with local churches.

**Gambia** Pray that God would continue to provide the needs of this Bible Society so that they can continue ministering in a very difficult environment. Ask for God's blessing on their Bible programmes for children and young people as well as their literacy classes and ongoing OT translation. Thank God for the opportunities and pray for all who minister here.

**Senegal** Ask for God's hand on Executive Secretary Ousseynou Ngom and team as they carry out ministry in a difficult environment. Pray for their literacy programmes and for the ongoing Bible translation into the Pulaar language. Pray too for wisdom and creativity to reach out to people from different backgrounds.

**Sign up for regular prayer material on our website at [biblesocietyni.co.uk/contact-us](http://biblesocietyni.co.uk/contact-us)**

**Kyrgyzstan** This is a country where Islam is strong and growing so Christians are under pressure and ministry is difficult. Pray for Executive Secretary Roman Fedyanin and team as they work to make the Bible available. Pray for strong relationships with churches and for an increased ability to provide Scripture resources for all ages.

**Uzbekistan** Pray for the work to make the Bible available in Uzbek to all who want it including large print and children's editions. Pray too for the ongoing work to produce an audio Bible and for work on their website to make the Bible more accessible. Ask God to direct Executive Director Khalmat Ashirov and the board as they develop the work.

**Kazakhstan** Pray for the team working in conditions of persecution, that they would be able to see additional translation and distribution projects commencing. Give thanks for partnerships with other Bible Societies in the region and pray for strong relationships with the Christian population.

**Pakistan** Thank God for the successful 'Women's Literacy Project' that benefited more than 5,600 women in 2017. Pray for the expansion of the Bible Museum and for the Bible contest and sports programmes. Ask God to give wisdom to GS Anthony Lamuel and team and to bless the continuing work on several Bible translations.

**Philippines** Pray for their programmes to reach everyone with the Bible including translation, distribution, FCBH, Trauma Healing, Scripture in sign language and much more. Pray for ministry to young people, that many would engage with God's Word. Pray for the construction of a new Bible Society building and for God's blessing on GS Nora Lucero and the team.

**Myanmar** Give thanks for the team led by GS Khoi Lam Thang and their ministry where believers are often persecuted. Pray for the 19 translation projects in progress, the renovation of Bible House, and for freedom to print and import Bibles. Ask God to bless the literacy programmes and youth projects. Pray for peace across the nation.

**Thailand** Please pray for work to translate, revise and publish the Bible in various languages including Thai Sign Language. Pray also for the project to create 100 songs using Bible verses and for the Trauma Healing Programme. Pray for distribution to primary schools and the children's Bible contests. Pray for GS Seree Lorgunpai and team.

**Sri Lanka** Give thanks for the work led by GS Priyantha Wijegoonawardane. Pray for the Trauma Healing ministry and their Audio Bible Programme. Pray that the Word of God will be available in different formats to reach a wider audience.

**Russia** Pray for the 5 ongoing translation projects and distribution to the remote people groups in Siberia. Pray for the ministry in this vast country led by Executive Director Anatoly Rudenko. Pray for widespread Bible distribution and strong relationships with churches and partner organisations.

**Mongolia** Ask for God's favour on Executive Director Bayarmagnai Bayardalai and the whole team. Pray for good progress with translation work on the Mongolian Standard Version Bible translation. Pray that they would be able to reach all families with the Bible and for the publication of Biblical material for children.

**Slovakia** Pray for GS Pavol Krasnocvetov and the team as they work to make God's Word known, especially to children and young people. Pray for the work to produce Scripture in sign language and for the Large Print Bibles being distributed to people with visual disability.

**Slovenia** Pray for all the programmes to help people engage with the Bible including promoting God's Word in new media and Bible reading marathon events. Pray for work on a modern Bible translation. Remember the staff led by GS Matjaž Črnivec.

**Thank you for praying for Bible Societies all around the world this year.**

## Bible-a-month Project December: Cambodia

It's important that children are encouraged to have big dreams and vital that they are given opportunities to make them happen. Children need to have leaders that will teach, love and inspire them. In Cambodia the Bible Society is working with churches and schools to make sure that children and young people are given the opportunity to learn – to gain a solid education and to understand the difference between right and wrong. They are sharing the Bible and directing these children on the right path.

- Pray for children and young people in Cambodia who are receiving Bibles. Pray that their hearts would be open to the Word and that their lives would be transformed.
- The Bible Society of Cambodia is working hard to make God's Word available to people – pray that they will be strengthened and guided by God in all their new initiatives and projects.
- Pray that the funding for this schools' work would be raised and more and more children would know who Jesus is.



**This month £5 will give New Testaments to 2 kids in Cambodia.**

## Albanian Bible

2019 will be an exciting year for the Interconfessional Bible Society of Albania. They are preparing for a huge milestone both for the Bible Society and the Christian community. The full Bible in Albanian will be launched having been translated from the original languages.

The translation work started in the year 2000, almost 10 years after the first churches were reopened in Albania following the Communist era. A group of young theologians and linguists, still in their twenties, were appointed by their respective churches to translate the Holy Scriptures from the original languages. The team started its work with the help of the United Bible Societies.

The New Testament was published in 2007 and was readily embraced. It is hoped that the full Bible will be welcomed in 2019 and that the first print run of 30,000 copies will be well received.

We are thrilled to see this translation reaching the Albanian people as we have been supporting the project for quite some years. Praise God for making His Word known.



**Altin Hysi, General Secretary of the Bible Society in Albania, in 2007 when the New Testaments arrived!**



**This Lisu ethnic minority church now have Bibles. Many others in China are still waiting.**

## Bibles for China

The summer 2018 edition of Word at Work had an appeal to place Bibles in China. While there have been incredible openings in China in terms of the Bible, there are still many people who struggle to access God's Word. There are many reasons for this but a prevailing reason is poverty. One simple step we can take is to make the Bible more affordable by paying for the paper that is used to print Bibles. We explained in the last magazine that £500 covers the cost of a bale of Bible printing paper – that is enough paper for 600 Bibles! These bales are delivered to Amity Printing Company

where Bibles have been printed for over 30 years. In that time they have printed well over 170 million Bibles, half of which have remained in China for distribution!

Thanks so much to each of you who donated towards our summer magazine appeal. We have raised enough to buy 20 bales of paper so far. That's paper for 12,000 Bibles! If you would still like to donate to this you can do so on our website here: [biblesocietyni.co.uk/project/china-bibles-for-chinas-millions](http://biblesocietyni.co.uk/project/china-bibles-for-chinas-millions)

## Uganda's Handwritten Bible Project

The Bible Society of Uganda will be celebrating their Golden Jubilee on 24th November 2018. To involve as many as possible in their celebrations, they have been running a Handwritten Bible project. They are hoping to see over 31,000 people taking part and engaging with God's Word. Any funds raised through the project will be going towards a new Bible House to further the ministry. Some of you may remember that our Bi-centenary in 2007 saw 10,000 people writing verses for our Handwritten Bible project.

It has been a joy for us to partner with the Bible Society in Uganda on their ministry to people with visual impairments. We love their heart to share God's Word with people who are often marginalised. Hellen was born blind and has been impacted by the Bible Society through their ministry to people with visual impairments. Her determination to be part of the

Handwritten Bible is inspirational! Read this and other stories here: [www.biblesociety-uganda.org/category/news](http://www.biblesociety-uganda.org/category/news)





This church received Bibles as part of the 'One Million Bibles project'. The joy is so evident.

## One Million Bibles – The Cuban Experience

Catherine Little had the joy of being part of an incredibly significant event in Cuba in June. Here she shares her reactions to Cuba and the wide-reaching Bible mission there.

Can you imagine what one million Bibles would look like? I'm sure that when the Bible Commission in Cuba (the Bible Society there) had the idea that they could distribute one million Bibles into their country they couldn't either.

The distribution of all these Bibles into Cuba started in 2013 and this year they reached their goal – one million Bibles were given to men, women, children, church leaders, older people and others across the island of Cuba.

Cuba has a population of approximately 11 million people. It is still governed by the Communist party but in recent years many of the restrictions on freedoms put in place by Fidel Castro have been relaxed. The Church can now meet and is growing rapidly in Cuba. These one million Bibles have transformed the work and teaching of the Church and is also creating change across society.

We have been involved in supporting this Bible project for several years. It is one of the places where many of you have 'twinned' your Bibles and somewhere that is close to the hearts of many. It was a wonderful privilege to attend the celebration of the 'One Million Bibles' project in Havana, Cuba, in June on behalf of the Bible Society in Northern Ireland. I was able to stand with leaders from other Bible Societies knowing that together we had made such a difference to the church and to individuals in Cuba.

The question for many of us was what is next for the Bible Commission of Cuba? They will continue to distribute Bibles – they dream that one day every Cuban will have a Bible. They will continue their Bible engagement programmes with churches across Cuba and keep working on reaching new audiences with God's Word.



This young girl received the one millionth Bible at the 'One Million Bibles' celebration event in Havana, Cuba on 2 June, 2018. She appears with her mother.



**Catherine had the privilege to help distribute Bibles to children and church leaders.**



**A family opening their new Bible right after receiving it.**

As part of my visit I was part of some Bible distribution projects with church leaders and with children. There is such a desire and need for Bibles. There are still many people across Cuba who attend church who don't have access to their own copy of the Bible.

The celebration of the distribution of one million Bibles was a catalyst to a gathering of Bible Society leaders from around the world to gather to discuss our global aims and objectives. Having this meeting in Cuba would have been unthinkable a generation ago.

During our time together, we focused on our plans for supporting translation over the next few years – this is a bold and brave plan that we as a global fellowship of Bible Societies, along with others, will reduce Bible poverty by over 50% by 2033. We considered our Bible mission to those with visual and hearing disabilities, our own mission sustainability, our work within a digital age and our overall global strategy.

Gathering together means that

relationships and friendships are strengthened. Having meetings over a meal are so important to the continuation of those conversations throughout the rest of the year. I was able to connect with colleagues from all over the fellowship who we have been supporting in recent years. These meetings are so important for building trust and confidence in one another. I was also able to make new connections to develop new partnerships for the future.

I really enjoy these conversations and the opportunities to meet and network with people from all over the world. People from places which are so different to here in Northern Ireland and people from church contexts that are very different to ours. We are all part of this big global Bible mission but often our day to day experiences are so different to one another.

There is no escaping that Cuba is a place that is on the wish list for many people to visit. I was very grateful to have had the opportunity to go and

experience Cuba this year. It was just like everyone said it would be – it was beautiful, it was colourful and vibrant, but the harsh reality is that there are still vast inequalities in Cuba. There are high levels of poverty and many Cubans do not experience the everyday freedoms that we may even take for granted. At times the views that I experienced looked like what I would expect paradise to be like but the reality was very different - it was hot and humid with so many insects that took delight in biting me.

My lasting impressions of Cuba are probably from the time spent visiting churches and projects and experiencing the sheer joy that they had for being together and reading God's Word. Everything was done with joy and enthusiasm, the singing and dancing that I experienced in the church service that I attended were unlike anything I've experienced before. Going to church in Cuba not only leads to increased faith it leads to being fitter as well.

# Autumn Appeal

## Transforming Honduras

“Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.”  
Ephesians 3:20 (NLT)

In this edition of Word at Work we're asking you to help us in a huge task. We're not only wanting to change the life of an individual or of a family... we want to see a whole country transformed. Through the power of the Word of God this is possible. He can accomplish so much more than we might ask or think.

**Honduras has a troubled and corrupt society.** Violence is visible on the streets and hidden behind closed doors. Gangs control communities and influence the armed forces, governing bodies and justice system. Businesses and families are forced to pay taxes to gangs, and if they are reluctant to do so they risk their lives and the lives of their families.

Even as this article is written there is conflict on the streets of Honduras. Protests have become violent, roadblocks are in place, and schools, universities and businesses have closed. Staff from the Bible Society of Honduras have been unable to get to their offices.

The city of San Pedro Sula was deemed the most violent in the world. Homicides were common and the concept of living in peace seemed like a foreign concept to those living there. **But life in Honduras is slowly changing.** This year San Pedro Sula has dropped from the top of this list – it isn't even in the top 25!

## What Has Influenced This Change In Honduras?

The Bible Society there believes that this has happened through the powerful Word of God. **As people receive Bibles lives are changed, communities are transformed, and peace begins to seep into the city streets.**

This transformation is one that may happen slowly, over generations, but the Bible Society of Honduras believe they have a role to play to ensure that all spheres of life are influenced by the Bible. They are asking for our help to make this happen.

## Police Service

The National Police has been accused of being one of the most corrupt institutions in Honduras. Alongside the efforts being made by the government to try and reform this service, **the Bible Society is distributing Bibles to the police service and armed forces.**

Members are keen to receive Bibles and learn how justice is taught in God's Word. Various Christian ministries have begun and now police officers are gathering together for Bible studies and prayer meetings. General Fonseca has been appointed as Chief of the Armed Forces. He is a Christian who is not shy about talking about his faith and is now in an amazing position to help more Bible distributions take place.

For him, the Bible represents a strategic weapon, far more precious and helpful than the weapons used by the armed institution: “I am a living testimony of what the Word of God can do in a person's life and I know there is a purpose for everything.”



The Bible Society of Honduras is giving the Bible to police officers and prisoners.

## Prisoners

**Bibles are also being distributed in jails** where there have been mighty and powerful testimonies from inmates who have been convicted of different crimes, including murders, rapes and robberies. Since they boldly came to the realisation that they needed Christ and the Word of God, they are no longer the same.

**Today, prisoners who used to be leaders of organised crime are now leaders of the Church.** They are eager to proclaim the wonders of the Lord and what His Word has done in their lives to change them. One prisoner shares:

“I’ve been in prison for 6 years. I was working in the drug trade, receiving planes loaded with cocaine in the jungle. I was involved in more than 50 deaths. The day the police captured me was because I had a confrontation with my uncles whom I killed. **God through his Word has changed my life, since I decided to read the Bible that I received from the Bible Society of Honduras.** I no longer want to get involved in drugs and have many women, much less want to kill anyone again. People today see me with different eyes, I have found grace before men for God. I am willing to go out and preach and give my testimony to every person I can, I know that God has control over my life and He knows where He will take me and what He will do with my life.”

## Help transform Honduras

There is religious freedom in Honduras. Today doors are open for the Bible Society to go into prisons and to conduct Bible distributions in different institutions. We must go where we can to share the peace giving, life transforming Word of God.

**God has the power to transform Honduras.**

Pray for this courageous work and make a donation today to place a Bible into the hands of someone in Honduras.

**Just £5 will give a Bible to a police officer or a prisoner. This small gift can have a huge impact.**

**If you would like to make a donation simply fill in the form that came with this magazine, or visit our website at [biblesocietyni.co.uk/project/honduras](http://biblesocietyni.co.uk/project/honduras)**



**Police officers gather for praise, prayer and Bible study.**



**Many in Honduras are keen to receive a Bible and find out what it says about justice.**

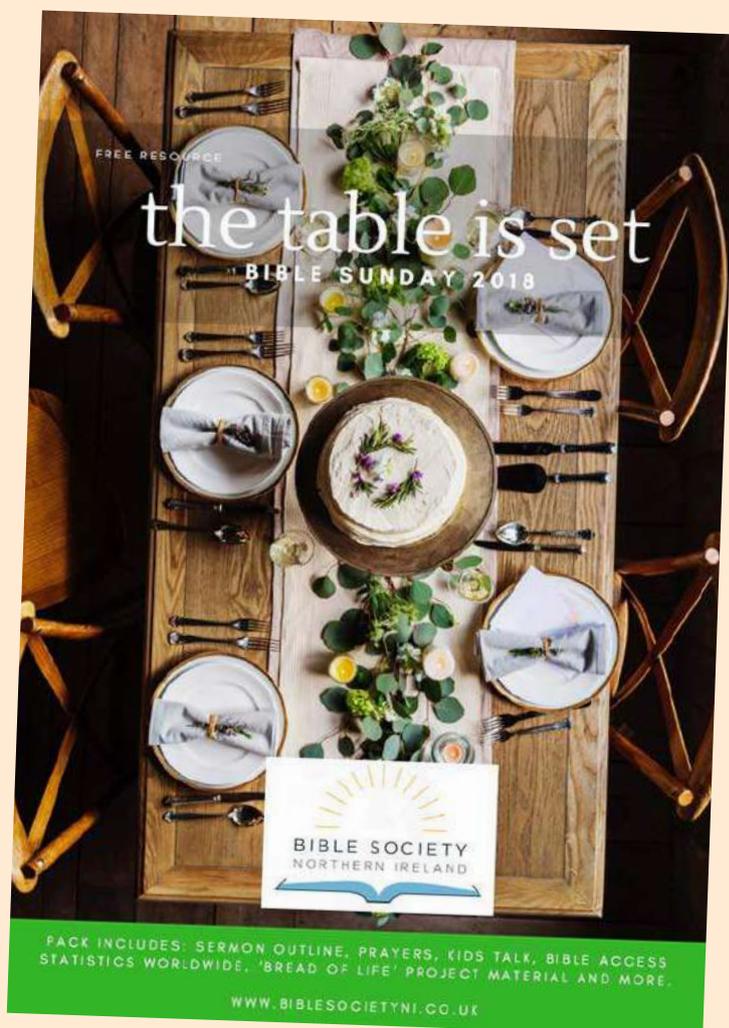
# The Table is Set

## Bible Sunday 2018

**Resources are free for your church. Have a look at [www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/resources/bible-sunday](http://www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/resources/bible-sunday) for everything you need.**

Bible Sunday exists to help our own churches appreciate how blessed we are to have ready access to the Bible, while also turning our thoughts to those who do not. This year's Bible Sunday resources are based on Isaiah 55:1-11 and include lots of great material to help arrange a Sunday worship service. The pack can be downloaded for free and adapted to suit your own style of service.

***'Come all who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.'***  
**Isaiah 55.1 (NIVUK)**



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## Word at Work

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