



W@W!

Word at Work

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

SUMMER 2019



THE CHINESE CHURCH CELEBRATES A MILESTONE THIS YEAR. PAGE 13

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Welcome

Catherine Little
General Secretary, Bible Society NI

Team work makes the dream work! A bit of a cliché perhaps but it is true.

Have you ever watched a murmuration of Starlings? This winter phenomenon happens in Belfast over the Albert Bridge at dusk and involves thousands of birds who are getting ready to roost for the night. This is on my journey home. I love to watch these birds glide and swoop together to make spectacular shapes in the late evening light. They work as a team and it is a joy to watch.

We have opportunities to work together every day. As staff and a Board of Trustees we work as a team at Bible Society in Northern Ireland, we work together with churches, church groups and individuals and we work with our global United Bible Societies (UBS) family.

Our team at Bible Society NI is changing. We said 'Goodbye' to Leah in January after 10 years of involvement as Projects Manager. We also said 'Hello' to Andrew in April who has joined us as Community Partnerships Manager. This is a new and exciting role which will focus on the Bible 2020 initiative and help us connect with new audiences here in Northern Ireland.

We love bringing you updates and stories from our global UBS family. In this Summer 2019 edition of Word at Work we are delighted to share news about new Bible access statistics: there are now 692 languages that have a complete Bible available in their language. We also share prayers from around the UBS fellowship – please pray with us for our brothers and sisters around the world who are involved in the Bible mission with us.

As a staff team and Board of Trustees we have worked hard on our new Strategy for 2019 – 2021 and we share this with you on page five. We want to see Bible Society NI grow stronger as we build on what has gone before. You will play a huge part in this and we thank you in advance for your involvement.

Thank you for being part of our team – we honestly couldn't do this without you.

Every blessing,

Catherine Little



Discover how the Pakistan Bible Society is helping girls and women of all ages discover a new life through literacy. Pages 14-15

All Change in Bible House

Moving On...

Leah McKibben reflects on her time with Bible Society NI. It's hard to believe that ten years ago I walked into Bible House for the very first time. A somewhat clueless twenty-something, I wasn't really sure what I was doing and I had no idea about the range and richness of Bible Society work.

It has been a true privilege to play a part in the ministry of Bible Societies all over the world. I heard pleas from people who longed to own a Bible, and then saw how these requests were answered. I read stories of how the Bible is treasured and passed from generation to generation, and I witnessed people receiving a Bible for the very first time. A lasting memory for me will always be seeing the tears rolling down the cheeks of a grandmother in Togo who was holding a Bible in her language for the first time. I am so grateful that I had the

opportunity to go and see some of this work overseas, and I hope that my time in these places helped people here in Northern Ireland connect with and know more about Bible Society ministry worldwide.

A big part of my job was visiting churches and groups in Northern Ireland and sharing with them about the work of Bible Society NI. I loved meeting new people, encouraging them to get involved with the work, and seeing how passionate the Church can be about sharing the Word of God. Thank you so much to all those groups who invited me to speak to them, I hope you will continue to follow and support the work with interest.

I'm sad to step back from the incredible ministry of Bible Society NI, but I hope that as I step into new things, what I have learnt and what I have seen will spur me on to continue sharing God's life changing word with everyone.



...Joining In

Hello! My name is Andrew Dickson and I am delighted to be joining the team at Bible Society NI as Community Partnerships Manager.

I'm married to Katherine, dad to 3-year-old Ruby Joy, who is currently excited about becoming a big sister very soon! We live close by the sea in balmy Whitehead and love spending time out and about as a family, having lots of adventures that usually involve discovering new places, food, hobby horses and IKEA.

For the past nine years I have served as a Youth Pastor in a couple of churches in Islandmagee

and latterly, since September 2014, in High Kirk Presbyterian Church, Ballymena. I love seeing God move and change lives and I am really passionate about people of all ages and backgrounds being able to encounter Jesus through his alive and active Word, as he has done throughout the generations. I want everyone to know that the Word of God brings life, hope, purpose, joy and light to their lives and the communities around them.

I'm looking forward to all that God has in store for this exciting chapter in the work of Bible Society NI. Thank you for your continued prayers for the whole team at Bible Society NI, and for me in the transition of this new role.

Resources

As you read this edition of Word at Work you will know that we care about every aspect of Bible mission around the world. We support Bible translation, publication and distribution; we also support literacy work for people learning to read using the Bible as well as Bible engagement and advocacy.

We also care about Bible mission in our own context and want to support Bible engagement here too.

As well as our Daily Bible Reading Guide we have produced a new leaflet called **'Where to look in the Bible'** which has helpful passages for everyday life. This is useful for finding help in the Bible, for using Scripture in your prayer life and for finding words of encouragement and blessing in God's Word. Why not use this guide to discover how the Bible can speak into your life – 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever' Hebrews 13:8, 'the

Word of the Lord endures forever' (Isaiah 40:8). Get in touch for copies for you and your friends.

We are also excited to start planning for our **Bible 2020** project which will involve people all over Northern Ireland joining in with our global Bible Society family to proclaim God's Word out loud. Andrew, our new Community Partnerships Manager, will be connecting with churches, groups and individuals to get ready for 2020. How will you get involved?

In our last Word at Work we mentioned **STORY** which places Bible characters into a modern-day context and encourages us to think deeper about them. Have you watched a STORY video yet? Visit www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/resources/story-watch-read-reflect to see all of our STORY videos so far. What do you think?



The Gathering

Will you gather with us? We want you to save the date of the evening of the 8th November 2019 to join with us at our first Gathering. This will be an opportunity to hear more about our work and to meet other Bible Society NI supporters at the same time.

We will have more information in our next Word at Work but we wanted to let you know the date as soon as we could. Get Friday 8th November in your diary to make sure that you are with us for this special occasion to gather around God's Word and Work.

Summer Events

Summer brings some great opportunities to get along to conferences and conventions and meet some great people. This year we will be popping up in lots of different places so if you are at an event, do come and say hello.

We will have a presence in the Mission areas at the Portstewart Convention (6-12 July), Wondrous (21-26 July), New Horizon (3-9 August) and Bangor Worldwide Missionary Convention (24-31 August).

We are especially excited about New Wine Sligo (14-19 July) as we have the opportunity to lead a seminar on the Tuesday afternoon. If you are there, come and hear more about the work of Bible Society NI and meet some of our team.



Strategic Plan 2019 – 2021

As a team of Staff and Board of Trustees, we have been working on a new Strategic Plan for 2019 – 2021 and this is our opportunity to share this with you. We care so much for the Bible Society in Northern Ireland and are taking steps to make sure our future is secure.

We want to see the Bible Society in Northern Ireland grow stronger and develop from where we are today. We stand on the foundations of more than 200 years of

Bible mission and want to continue to reach everyone with God's Word in a language and format that is best for them.

We want to serve and support the Church in Northern Ireland with a view to seeing local people engaging with God's Word, developing a love and passion for Scripture and growing a heart for supporting global Bible mission around the World.

Together we want to see:



Growth in the awareness of our work to reach everyone with God's Word

We want more people to know about our great work supporting Bible mission in countries all over the world and in Northern Ireland. We have stories of Bible translation, publication and distribution to share alongside stories of literacy work, Bible engagement and advocacy which will inspire, encourage and motivate individuals, churches and groups here.



Increase and development in the support base for our work by increasing the number of supporters and ways for them to support us

We want to continue creating new and engaging ways for individuals, churches and groups to support and connect with us through prayer, finances and their time.



Increase in the support for Bible mission globally through United Bible Societies and locally through collaboration and partnership with others in Northern Ireland

We want to be generous with how we support Bible Societies and their work of Bible mission around the world as well as increasing our collaboration and partnership here in Northern Ireland.



Promotion of Bible engagement in Northern Ireland

We want people in Northern Ireland to develop a love and passion for Scripture and grow a passion for supporting global Bible mission all over the world.



Best practice in governance, finance and administration policies and have procedures in place to ensure effective and efficient management of the Bible Society in Northern Ireland

We want to operate in an efficient, effective and streamlined way following best practice guidelines for charity management.

Will you pray for us as we seek to make God's message known through the implementation of these strategies? Thank you.

Meet James

Our work is supported and led by our Board of Trustees – they have ultimate responsibility for the work of the Bible Society in Northern Ireland.

This group have a variety of backgrounds,

experiences and skills. Alongside being a Board member, we also have other roles for volunteers – could you get involved as a Board member or in another volunteer capacity? Why not get in touch to discuss this.

We asked James, one of our newer Board members to answer a few questions about himself:

Why did you get involved with Bible Society NI?

I love and I'm passionate about the Word of God. "In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ..." (Eph 3:4 NIV). Putting God's Word into a person's hand, whether here in Northern Ireland or on the other side of the world is a powerful thing.

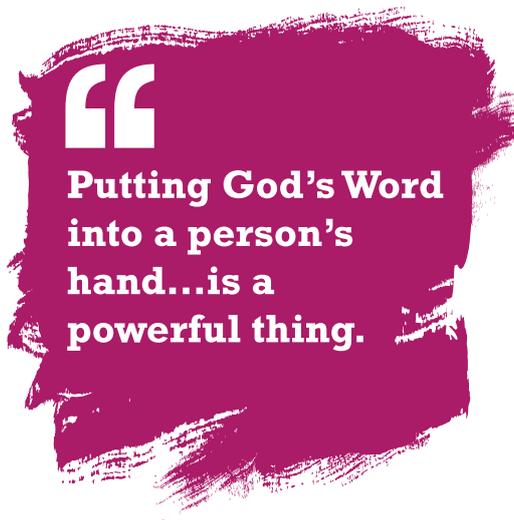
What do you do with the rest of your time?

I'm the Associate Chaplain in The Hub, Belfast. The Hub Belfast is a chaplaincy partnership between the Church of Ireland and Methodist Church in Ireland to share in ministry and mission across University and College Campuses in the city of Belfast. We minister through a residential centre where fifty students live in Christian community, a worshipping Church family, a campus café in the Queen's quarter of the city, and a Chaplaincy presence on college and university campuses in Belfast.

My role is really two-fold: pastoral care and discipleship. We work with and amongst people at different stages in their life and faith journey. Our heart for anyone who connects with Chaplaincy is that they would feel cared for and that they grow in their knowledge and love of God.

Favourite book of the Bible? Why?

I often find myself revisiting Hebrews. It's such a rich letter. God uses the letter to remind us of so



many things that are fundamental in our faith - God's goodness and glory, the centrality of the Lord Jesus, the unfolding redemptive history from the book of Genesis right through to twenty-first century discipleship, and our need to persevere in faith and love.

Thoughts on the future of Bible Society NI

In our 2019 – 2021 strategy there is one sentence that's key for me.

"We want to serve and support the Church in Northern Ireland with a view to seeing local people engaging with God's Word, developing a love and passion for Scripture and growing a heart for supporting global Bible mission around the World."

Bible Society NI has an incredible history of supporting Bible mission around the globe. It's amazing to think that people all over the world are holding a Bible today because someone in Northern Ireland loved them and loved Scripture enough to support our work financially and prayerfully.



James Diffin is one of the newer members of the Bible Society NI Board of Trustees.



The Hub, Belfast, where James works as the Associate Chaplain.

P@W!

Prayer at Work

PULL OUT AND KEEP PRAYER GUIDE
SUMMER 2019

Your prayers are priceless to us. We know that having a powerhouse of praying supporters brings breakthroughs and Kingdom opportunities right around the world. Get current topics through our Prayer News email. Have a look on the Pray page in the Get Involved section of our website – www.biblesociety.co.uk

Terms & Abbreviations

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

Good Samaritan Project: A Bible-based HIV/AIDS education programme. Workshop based, multi-media training. **Trauma Healing:** Bible-Based counselling for survivors of traumas such as disaster, epidemics or war. **GS:** General Secretary. **OT/NT:** Old/New Testament. **CEO:** Chief Executive Officer

JUNE 2-8

Cameroon Give thanks for the wide ministry carried out by GS Luc Gnowa and team. Pray for ongoing Bible translations into the Podoko and Guidar languages and for the revision of the Mungaka Bible. Pray for the Esther project bringing God's Word to teenage mothers and exploited girls. Pray also for the FCBH, Trauma Healing, Good Samaritan and literacy programmes. Ask for help and direction in reaching young people with digital media.

Gabon Praise God for the work to make His Word known in Gabon. Pray for positive responses and new approaches to reaching young people. Pray too for strengthening relationships with the churches. Give thanks for the team led by Thierry Mabiata and all that they are able to achieve. Pray too for the different translation projects that are at various stages; these include Ikota, Omyènè, Fang, Ghetshogo and Yinzebi languages.

JUNE 9-15

America Pray that God will guide the work of the American Bible Society, sparking a revival of Scripture engagement across the US – especially for God's favour on the Faith and Liberty Discovery Centre. Pray for the Bible translation and

Bible-based trauma healing projects they support, so all may discover the hope of Christ in Scripture. Pray for CEO Roy Peterson and the large team as they raise awareness and support for projects around the world.

Canada Pray for wisdom for Dr Rupen Das as he leads the staff and volunteers. Pray for God's leading in new strategies to reach more Canadians with God's Word through partnerships with churches and organisations. Pray for wisdom, provision and protection for their translation teams. Praise God for partnerships which enable God's Word to be shared with homeless people, immigrants, young people, new readers and many others.

Mexico Pray for the team led by GS Julio Martinez and their work to reach the population with the Bible. Ask God to help teams engaged in translation work including the Tojolabal Bible that we have helped fund. Pray too for the ongoing translation of the Bible into Mexican Sign Language and for their children's teaching ministries. Pray too for lasting impact from their ministry to break the culture of domestic violence.

JUNE 16-22

Hong Kong Praise God that the Chinese Union Version Bible has

been available for 100 years. Pray for the ongoing work to make the Revised Chinese Union Bible available. Pray for the team led by Acting GS Mr Tseun Yuen, Ignatius Lee. Pray for strong partnerships with other Christian organisations and Churches. Pray that the Bible Society would discover new opportunities to help people access and engage with the message of the Bible.

China Praise God for the launch of the Chinese Study Bible. Pray that many pastors, preachers and believers will benefit greatly from it as they understand God's Word in a deeper way. Pray that the authorities will continue to endorse the printing and translation of the Bible for ethnic minorities. Pray too that the partnership with the Church in China will remain strong. Pray for Kua Wee Seng who leads Bible Society work in China.

Bangladesh Pray for the Rohingya people who have been displaced from Myanmar, that God's love would reach them. Pray for peace in the country and wisdom in leadership. Pray for the team led by GS Rev Liton Mrong as they make the Bible available in various languages, including Adivasi. Remember the work to make the Bible accessible to children and young people. Pray too that the building of the new headquarters would make good progress.

JUNE 23-29

Singapore A main priority here is developing a digital presence so that the Bible Society will be accessible to everyone wherever they are. Please pray for the team led by GS Rev Ezekiel Tan, that God would give them the grace to fulfil their vision of making the Bible available to all. Pray that they would know good partnerships with churches and see new ways to engage people with the Bible.

Malaysia Please pray for safe delivery and distribution of Arabic/English Bilingual Bibles for Migrant Ministry. Thank God for the completion of the Bahasa Malaysia formal translation of the NT and Wisdom books. Pray for a smooth process with printing and distribution, that many will soon engage deeper with God's word. Pray for GS Rev Mathew Punnoose and team.

Philippines Please ask God to provide Bibles and discipleship training to 54,000 people from 400 churches through the Adopt-A-Church programme. Pray too for the ongoing NT translation for Tinggian speakers, a project we have been partnering with. Ask for blessing on FCBH, Trauma Healing and work to create an audio Bible. Pray for the team led by GS Dr Nora Lucero.

Bible-a-month Project June: Egypt

Children in Egypt love Kingo the big friendly lion. They watch him on television as he teaches them about God. Now they have the chance to meet him in person. The Bible Society of Egypt runs Kingo festivals. Thousands of children can come along to meet Kingo, learn about God and take part in fun activities. These festivals are bringing joy and fun to children who have tough lives. Every child that comes along receives a Bible activity book, helping them engage with the Bible message.

- Pray that these Kingo events will help thousands of children begin to understand how God's Word is relevant to their lives. Pray that children and their families will be changed as God speaks through His Word.
- Pray for creative ideas, for power and enthusiasm of the staff and volunteers as they plan and run the programmes.
- Pray for continued opportunities and freedom to host these events as well as security and safety for all attending.



This month £5 will give activity books to 25 children in Egypt.

JUNE 30 – JULY 6

England & Wales Please pray for the varied work around England and Wales. Pray for the initiatives, events and resources designed to help Christians engage with the Bible with enthusiasm and passion. Pray for their work in the public sphere, promoting the importance of the Bible in education, film, politics and the workplace. Pray for the team led by CEO Paul Williams and their work to support ministry around the world.

Scotland Pray that the Bibleworld Books literacy project helps children in their reading skills and also to learn about God and the Bible. Pray that many churches will use this resource. Pray for the volunteers and after school clubs that use this innovative educational resource. Pray for the team led by Elaine Duncan and their work to connect with the Christian community in Scotland and help the wider society engage with Scripture.

JULY 7-13

Ireland Praise God for the efforts that have gone in to strengthening the Bible Society in Ireland. Pray for the Board and fresh opportunities for partnership with the Christian community in Ireland. Pray for a growing support base and for wisdom in how to encourage Scripture engagement both within the Church and in the wider society.

Northern Ireland Pray for us as we continue to build partnerships

and strengthen relationships with Churches and other Christian agencies so that we might have a deeper impact at home. Pray also for fresh ways to attract new supporters and partners who are passionate about the spread of the Bible around the world. Pray for the team led by Catherine Little and for the Board who steer the work.

JULY 14-20

Congo Praise God for the continuing work to make the Word of God available in different languages through a number of translation projects. Please pray that all the needs would be met to enable the teams to complete their work. Pray too for the Trauma Healing programme that works with local churches to impact their community for good. Pray for GS Landry Mangoyo, the staff team, the Board and partners.

Democratic Republic of Congo Pray particularly for the Bible translation projects, a number of which are in languages that still have no Bible available. Pray for those who will eventually receive these Bibles in their mother tongue, that their hearts would be open. Pray for the FCBH and Good Samaritan programmes and for GS Christophe Kote, the staff and Board. Pray too for political stability and peace in the country.

Chad Pray for the team working on a revised Bible in Nangjéré. Pray that this will make God's Word more accessible. Also, pray for the efforts to reach out to women in difficult circumstances with the Bible. Pray for the staff

led by GS Roland Koulanoudji and for strengthening relationships with the Churches. Pray for opportunities to make the Bible available in different formats for those who cannot read written text.

JULY 21-27

Netherlands Antilles and Aruba Please ask God to bless the Bible Work in this country led by GS Armin Elisa. Give thanks for the partnerships and pray for a growing network of supporters. Pray for the efforts to reach children and young people with Bible comics and for the ministry to support children at risk. Pray too for the final stages of the Papiamentu Bible translation and the Study Bible.

Suriname Thank God for the new Javanese Bible for the 75,000 Java people in Suriname. Pray that many will be reached. Pray for other ongoing translations and for the children's Bible Story books in a number of languages. Pray that their Trauma Healing project will lead to many lives being blessed. Remember the team led by GS Erny van Axel.

Venezuela Please pray for Managing Director Javier Chacon and team and thank God for guiding them through these times of crisis. Pray that the Church would be an instrument of change through God's Word and that peace would soon be known. Pray also for ongoing translation projects including Curripaco, Uwottüja and Venezuelan Sign Language. Give thanks for the Bread of Life programme bringing

Scripture and a meal to children from poorer families.

JULY 28-AUG 3

Costa Rica Please thank God for His faithfulness in helping Costa Rican Churches in promoting Bible reading and communicating its message to every resident of the country. Pray for the inmate rehabilitation project through Bible Study and the work to tackle domestic violence. Ask for God's blessing on the ongoing translation project to reach Ngäbe speakers with God's Word. Pray for the whole team led by GS Mayra Ugalde.

Panama Please pray for General Secretary 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 so that all may have access to the Bible in their own language. Pray for strong partnerships with other organisations and good Church relations.

Nicaragua Praise God for the recent launch of the Mayagna Audio NT, which was received with great joy. Pray that this will have a great impact. Pray for GS Freddy Fonseca, staff, Board and volunteers. Pray also for strong partnerships with Churches and other Christian organisations and for more opportunities to make God's Word known. Ask God for blessing and healing on ill children and their families being reached through hospital ministry.

See our website for more prayer resources: www.biblesocietyni.co.uk

Bible-a-month Project July: India

Mr Dass was so happy when the Bible Society of India visited him to give him a Bible. 'Thanks for visiting me in my home, praying with me and giving me this Bible. Truly, it is God's Word and I am reading it. We are poor people and cannot afford to eat good food. We are reading this Bible and praying every day. It is giving us peace.' While the Bible Society of India is sharing God's Word in the slums, they are also promoting education and healthcare.

- Give thanks that God's Word is bringing peace to people living in difficult situations. Pray that many will come to faith as the Bible message is spread.
- Pray for the distribution into slum areas, that the visitation teams will carry the light and love of God with them attracting people to Jesus. Pray that they will know God's protection.
- Pray that their efforts to promote education and healthcare would bring about change for many and lead to new opportunities.



£5 will give New Testaments to 4 people living in slums in India.

Côte d'Ivoire The presidential and general elections in the country are due in 2020. Please pray for peace and economic stability during this time. Pray for the five translation projects due to be completed in 2019 and 2020. Pray that the teams would stay healthy and that funding would remain in place. Pray for GS Dominique N'Gbesso and team as they seek solutions to the difficulties in obtaining Bibles for distribution.

Liberia Please ask God to make the Bible's message more widely known across this country, especially among young people and children. Pray for good progress with translation projects. Pray for the literacy project which ultimately aims to promote Bible literacy. Pray for the safety of the staff led by GS Paul Stevens and for the Board. Thank God for every Bible distributed and pray for each recipient.

Sierra Leone Please ask God to bless the Bible Work in this country and that God's Word can reach the hearts of the entire population. Pray for Executive Secretary Christiana Agima Jones and the whole team as they work to meet the Bible needs of their country. Pray for the necessary funds to prepare a braille Bible and ongoing translation work. Pray also for the FCBH programme and the work to reach young people.

Croatia Please ask God to help the team led by GS Damir Lipovsek as they seek to make His Word available to the entire population. Pray for the continuing work to translate the Bible into modern Croatian and the efforts to connect with young people through sport. Pray too for the project to help Churches reach out to people who are not from the same background.

Serbia Executive Secretary Vera Mitic leads the ministry here. Pray for guidance for the staff and Board. Pray that they would know encouragement as they work to make the Bible known and more widely applied in Serbia. Pray especially for the project to help children discover that the message of the Bible is for them. Pray also that the work to bring the NT to the Romani community will have a lasting impact.

Romania GS Emilia Iorgandopol leads work here. Please pray that an ongoing legal dispute will be settled in an honouring way. Pray for the holistic and mission-based projects for children and cancer patients, as well as for the Trauma Healing project. Pray that God would guide the team as they develop new projects and work to see their culture changed through the Word of God.

West Indies Praise the Lord for the work based in Jamaica that reaches across a number of island territories. Pray for the team led by GS Courtney Stewart, that they would be able to increase their fundraising and improve their social media presence. Pray for strong relationships with the different Churches and good partnerships that enable them to make the Word known. Pray that they will be able to make the Bible affordable to all.

Cuba Praise God that the 'One Million Bibles' project has been achieved and pray for the ongoing efforts to reach all people in Cuba with Bibles of their own. Pray for the team led by GS Alain Montano in their efforts to distribute Scripture to churches that are still without as well as others, including families, prisoners and young people. Ask God for continued provision and permission for Bible ministry.

Haiti Magda Victor leads the team in this country full of challenges. Thank God for His protection on the staff so far. Pray for continued safety for the staff and their workplace. Ask for God's blessing on their work as they run FCBH and Trauma Healing groups, reaching mainly those whose lives have been devastated by hurricanes. Pray for Bible distribution to churches and schools, and to people who are new readers.

Cyprus Praise God for the NT distributed in schools and pray that students will take the Word of God into their hearts. Pray for GS Michail Chatzigiannis and team. Pray for strengthening relations with Churches and more opportunities to distribute Scripture to schools and other audiences. Pray for the Bible Society to grow in strength and effectiveness as they seek to increase Bible distribution and engagement.

Turkey Thank God that the Trauma Healing project has been benefiting many people due to the efforts of local facilitators. Pray for opportunities to hold more workshops in major cities to train and reach more people. Give thanks for the Bible book shop and stalls at book fairs which are making the Bible available to those who wish to buy one. Pray for Executive Secretary Tamar Karasu, staff, Board, partners and volunteers.

Syria Please keep praying for peace in Syria and that God's Word would bring true peace to people. Thank God for the strong relationship between the Bible Society and the Church. Pray for Director George Andrea and those he works with. Pray for their protection as they remain in Syria to share the Bible. Pray for their Trauma Healing programme helping people who continue to suffer the effects of war.

Bible-a-month Project August: Malawi

Pastor Tingo serves in a small church in Malawi, but for years he only had part of a Bible. His ragged, worn out Bible was the only copy that the whole church had and it only ran from Genesis 42 to 1 Corinthians. The whole church were so happy when the Bible Society of Malawi came with new Bibles. Now families in his church are sitting down together and growing on the foundation of God's Word. An engagement pack contains Bibles and reading guides for adult and children.

- Pray that the work to bring Scripture Engagement Packs to families will touch many lives and leave a lasting impact that will lead many to the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Ask for protection on the distributors who often visit remote areas on bicycles. Pray for protection as they travel long distances alone.
- Pray that all Churches and church-related organisations in Malawi would unite around the Bible and bring glory to God.



This month £5 will help place a Bible in a Family Scripture Engagement pack.

Poland Thank God that the Bible Society has been in Poland for more than 200 years. Pray for the current staff led by GS Malgorzata Platajs, that they will know God's guidance for the future. Pray for their new Ecumenical Bible and that those who read this modern translation will find faith, hope, love and comfort. Pray for their efforts to raise awareness and support for Bible ministry.

Czech Republic Please ask God to make the Bible message more widely known across the country. May God empower Christians to share God's Word with the rest of the nation. Pray for GS Pavel Novak and the team who work along with him to make the Bible known. Pray for their relationships with Churches and other organisations, and for their work to promote and raise support for Bible ministry.

Slovakia Thank God for the successful projects that are reaching marginalised people with the Bible: the Romany, the visually impaired and the hard-of-hearing. Pray too for distribution to school children and for the elderly receiving giant print Scripture. Please pray for the ongoing translation of the Bible into sign language and for the activities being prepared online and on social media. Pray for Acting GS Pavel Vilhan and the team.

Denmark Please pray for the current work on a new translation of the whole Bible into contemporary Danish. Pray that this will bear fruit and open many eyes to the love and life of the biblical message. Pray for the team led by GS Birgitte Larsen and for their work to resource their churches and raise awareness and funds for Bible Society ministry around the world.

Sweden Please pray for the launch of the NT in Simplified Swedish. Pray that the Adventures of the Bible project would continue without any restrictions. This has already reached 35,000 public school students ranging from 10 to 11 years old. Pray also for all the migrants who have made their way into Sweden, that they may be touched by God's Word in their own language. GS Anders Blåberg leads this team.

Finland Praise God for the team led by GS Markku Kotila, who work hard to support the fellowship. Pray for their efforts to raise awareness and support for projects around the world and for their particular heart for translation and literacy projects in Africa. Pray that they would be encouraged by growing church relations and new ways to help people of all ages in Finnish society engage with the Bible.

Dominican Republic Praise God for the lives reached through Scripture projects to the deaf community, orphaned children and school pupils. Please pray that the Lord will bless the work to stop domestic violence. Give thanks for the partnerships with other Bible Societies that support the ministry and pray also for GS Carmen Checo de Acosta, the staff, Board, partners, volunteers and all who make it possible for the Word of God to keep on transforming lives.

East Caribbean GS Owen Williams leads the small team in the East Caribbean. Their territory consists of 12 island nations including Barbados, where the team is based. Pray for the challenges this brings as they work to make the Bible affordable and available in multiple languages to people who often live in poverty. Pray for the work to engage young people with the Bible in an effort to point them into true hope.

Puerto Rico Please ask God to help GS Heriberto Martinez-Rivera, and all who work with him, to fulfil their vision of making God's Word available to all people in a format they can understand and at a price they can afford. Pray that they will be encouraged through strengthened relationships with Churches and other organisations, leading to new opportunities to make the Bible known and raise awareness of Bible Society ministry.

Egypt Pray for the programmes to bring the Bible to children and young people in different circumstances. Pray for the team working on renovating their Bible World tour which was has become outdated. Pray too for the programme which is training Bible Study leaders to help bring God's Word alive. Give thanks for the Bible Society shops in various cities and for GS Ramez Atallah, staff, Board and huge numbers of volunteers.

Jordan GS Munther Al-Namath leads the team here as they make God's Word available to those who want it. Give thanks for the opportunities to reach people from different backgrounds, including many refugees. Pray too for the Trauma Healing programme bringing help to many. Ask for God's blessing as they seek to bring the Bible message to children and young people. Pray for the team who host booths at national bookfairs.

Lebanon Please pray that the ongoing Bible engagement programmes can reach all segments of society, including children, young people and adults. Pray for the Trauma Healing programme, the ongoing publications and for Bible distribution. Pray also for GS Michael Bassous, the whole staff team and Board as they serve the Church in the Middle East. Pray for strong partners and supporters who enable God's Word to be spread.

Bible-a-month Project September: Honduras

God's Word is having a powerful impact on Honduras. In a country where gang culture is rife, levels of violence and crime are high. Corruption among the armed forces and justice system is common. The Bible Society of Honduras are sharing God's Word with the police force and it is having a huge impact as police officers are keen to receive Bibles and learn from them. Reports show that violence in Honduras is decreasing. God's Word is powerful.

- Honduras no longer tops the countries as the most violent, but it has been up there for some time. Pray that God will continue to bring about change and that Honduras will soon be a safe place.
- Pray for all those in the armed forces who are receiving Bibles, that they would read and apply what they learn. Pray that corruption would be eradicated as men and women turn to God.
- Pray for the Bible Society as they reach out with the Bible, that they would make connections that lead to new life.



This month, £5 will give a Bible to a police officer in Honduras.

What a Gift!

Every Christmas, for the last 14 years, Bible Society NI has offered you a way to give alternative Christmas gifts. Many of you decided to do just that for Christmas 2018 giving a generous £23,895! Thank you.

The greatest thing about this generosity is that it will continue to impact many people, every day, for the rest of their lives. The Gift of the Bible is priceless.

Maybe you 'bought' a voucher for a friend, received one, or made a donation towards one of the projects? Did you know you would be helping reach all of these people...

Cuba – More Bibles Please!

Your gifts are placing 798 Bibles in Cuba. The Church is growing fast and there is a huge demand for Bibles. Many people have been longing to own a Bible for many years. Your kindness is bringing so much joy.

Guatemala – Free to Live

This heart breaking project reaches young girls who have been victims of sexual abuse or trafficking, helping them begin to rebuild their lives. God's Word is shared during special workshops and Trauma Healing programmes. **798 girls will be given God's Word thanks to Greatest Gift donations.**

Slovakia – Giant Print Portions

The Slovak Bible Society is the only organisation in Slovakia that provides Scripture for people with visual disabilities. Older people in care homes and hospices warmly welcome Bible portions that they can read. Gospels are currently available and work is under way to make the whole New Testament available. **997 people will be able to own Giant Print Bible portions, thanks to you!**

South Sudan – Helping Kids Heal

Thousands of children have become victims of war, witnessing terrible things and running for their lives. Left traumatised and often orphaned, these children need help to build a future. The Bible Society trains church leaders to run Trauma Healing programmes, sharing the hope found in Christ. **Greatest Gift is helping 638 children in South Sudan.**

Malawi – Family Engagement

This project partners with Scripture Union in Malawi to bring Scripture Engagement packs to families eager to engage with God's message. **133 families will receive packs and be helped to engage in Bible study thanks to Greatest Gift.**

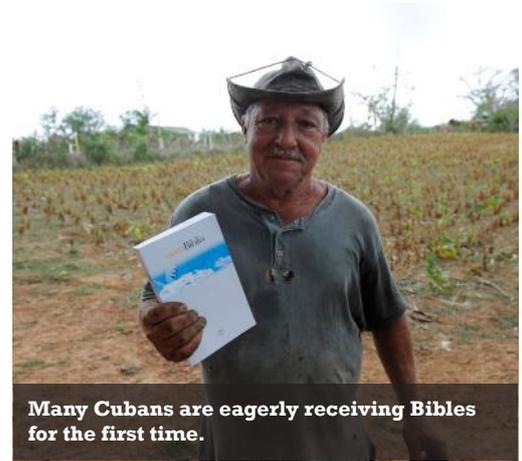
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Greatest Gift will continue to impact many people, every day, for the rest of their lives.

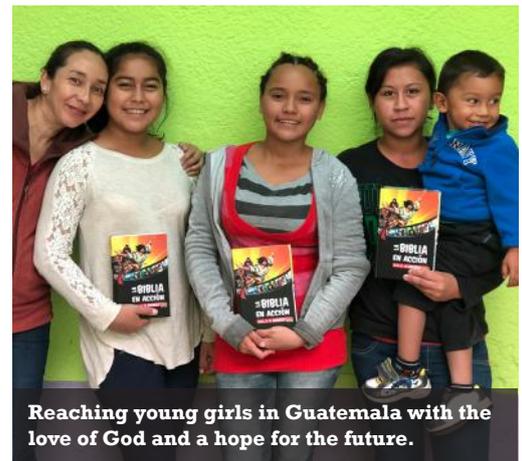
Pakistan – Literacy for Women

Almost 60% of the Christian community in Pakistan are women who cannot read. The Pakistan Bible Society is partnering with churches to offer literacy training classes for women and **donations to Greatest Gift have covered the cost for 57 women to take classes.**

All of this has been achieved with the support of Greatest Gift 2018. What a joy to know we are part of something that is touching lives in so many places. There can surely be no greater gift than the precious Word of God. Please pray that each person receiving Scripture will be moved to open it and that the Spirit will bring it alive as they read.



Many Cubans are eagerly receiving Bibles for the first time.



Reaching young girls in Guatemala with the love of God and a hope for the future.



Helping older people with poor vision read the Bible again. Giant Print Scripture brings so much joy!



Bringing the Bible to families in Malawi through partnering with Scripture Union and local Churches.

Scripture Access and the Translation Road map

Having the Bible in our own language is something that we take for granted – we have had the full Bible in English for centuries yet there are thousands of languages in the world today with no Scripture at all.

Of the 7,350 languages in the world, only 692 have a complete Bible. Most of the world's population could read one of these Bibles but there are millions in the world today who can only read the Bible in a language that isn't their own.

As Bible Societies, we work together to reach everyone with God's Word – that is our mission statement. We have a lot of work to do. Bible translation is hard, time-consuming work.

In 2018, working with churches and other partners, Bible Societies completed translations into 66 languages. Forty-four of those languages, used by over 77 million people, received 'first' translations; nine communities welcomed their first full Bible and 15 got their first New Testament. Twenty language groups received their first, or additional, portions of Scripture.

Among the 20 languages, which received first or additional portions of Scripture, were five sign languages used by more than a million Deaf people in Hungary, Lithuania, Japan, Thailand and Guatemala. Helping the world's 70 million Deaf people get access to Scripture in their language is a growing focus for Bible Societies and their partners. Currently, only around 10% of the world's estimated 400 sign languages have any Scripture, and no sign language has the full Bible.

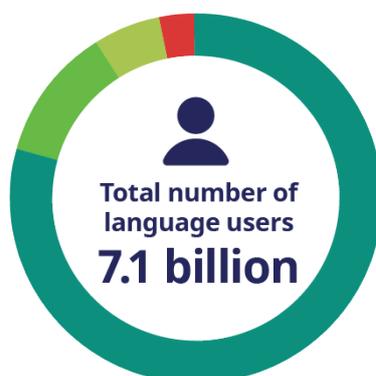
In 2018, UBS embarked on a bold 20-year journey that aims to provide around 600 million people with new access to Scripture in their heart language. If Bible Societies receive the funding

How many languages have Scripture?



| | |
|--|---|
| | Bibles 692 |
| | New Testaments+¹ 1,547 |
| | Portions 1,123 |
| | No Scriptures² 3,988 |

How many people have Scripture in their language?



| | |
|--|---|
| | Bibles 5.6 billion |
| | New Testaments+¹ 805 million |
| | Portions 411 million |
| | No Scriptures² 246 million |

Figures as at 01.01.2019. Figures for language users are based on best available data rounded up, which is less than the world population of over 7.7 billion people. 1. Includes five Old Testaments. 2. Includes 245 sign languages not previously included in total language count.

that they need, this will involve the completion of 1,200 translation projects by 2038.

We will play our part in this global translation strategy by supporting this work financially and in prayer. Thank you for how you have done this over many years.

Having the Bible in our heart language is a gift. We look forward to sharing this gift with millions of people in the coming years.



Chinese Union Bible – Centenary

The Chinese Union Version (CUV) Bible was first published in 1919, making it 100 years old this year. A special thanksgiving service was conducted in Shanghai where about 300 local church leaders, believers and invited guests attended to mark this milestone.

Since its publication, generations of Chinese people have had their lives saved and transformed through the Word of God. Currently, more than 80 million copies of the CUV have been distributed in Mainland China since 1987, becoming the version that is most widely used by Chinese Christians everywhere.

The translation process of the CUV saw incredible partnerships. Bible translators from different denominations and mission societies worked with Chinese believers, with support from Bible Societies around the world.

Partnership continues with the Amity Printing Company, which prints millions of Bibles each year using paper purchased by Bible Societies. Our winter appeal this year is to buy Bible paper, making Scripture more affordable in China.

The Chinese Union Version has been in use for 100 years. Christians are still receiving copies for the first time today.

Focus on Trauma Healing

If you use the Prayer@Work pages of your magazine, you will be familiar with a programme that we often mention called Trauma Healing. This is one of a number of programmes that is being used by Bible Societies all over the world, in many different contexts. Originally developed by the American Bible Society, it's reach has grown to impact people in 94 countries.

The Trauma Healing Institute describes the programme in this way, 'We provide training, resources, and support to help the Church respond to trauma in communities around the world. Built on a solid foundation of mental health best practices, our Bible-based model leads to sustainable trauma care in any context.'

Almost 9,000 Trauma Healing facilitators have been trained and programmes have run in 194 languages, impacting around 1.3 million people. There is also an oral model of the programme which is based around story telling, and a children's model which has been translated into 18 languages. Trauma

comes in many forms, whether it is following a natural disaster, surviving a war zone or suffering abuse. Millions of people around the world are currently traumatised and need help to recover. Trauma Healing offers support and hope as people begin to step into healing.

There are currently 200 agencies who partner with Bible Societies to implement Trauma Healing programmes. Some of these include SIL (Wycliffe), SIM, Pioneer Bible Translators, The Seed Company and many others.



Widows in Uganda gather weekly for trauma healing sessions.

Summer Appeal

Learning to Read in Pakistan

Girls Can't Read

There aren't too many people in our setting who can't read. Most of us would be unaware of anyone in our family or circle of friends in that position. We read without thinking about it – sending a text message, or reading a billboard for example. It's just second nature.

That why it's hard for us to image what it is like to be illiterate. Imagine not being able to understand prices on items in a shop, read a timetable, newspaper or menu. Imagine not even being able to recognise your own name.

In many places around the world, particularly in rural regions and slum areas, illiteracy is not unusual. It is still quite normal for children to work, beg or carry out chores around the house. If a child in the family goes to school, it will most likely be a boy. Sometimes this is because a family can only afford to educate one child or because it is not culturally acceptable for a girl to go to school.

Women in Pakistan

Pakistan is one country where literacy rates are very low, particularly in rural regions and the vast city slums. As a whole, less than 60% of the population can read and write but in rural areas the illiteracy rate is considerably higher. Girls are rarely educated in rural Pakistan due to long-held customs. This means women can find themselves vulnerable and exploited, frequently trapped in poverty.

Naturally, this is reflected in the Church in Pakistan where nearly 60% of the entire Christian community are women who cannot read. This is a huge challenge for Church leaders as they teach God's Word.

Where there is a challenge, there is also a solution and the Pakistan Bible Society has teamed up with local churches to offer literacy training and suitable Scriptures to disadvantaged Christian women.



Women of all ages join together to learn to read. Many have had no education at all.



These young women and children are gathered at a literacy class.

A Beacon in the Darkness

The Pakistan Bible Society have been running a project called 'A Beacon in the Darkness'. The aim of this is to lead women into literacy, so that they can read God's Word for themselves and grow in faith. They can then teach their families what they learn. Not only do these women and their children learn to follow Jesus, they also learn to understand their bills, check their wages are correct and discover opportunities that they never had before! Literacy has the power to transform a family. When someone can read, they are not so easily exploited. They can learn about hygiene, medical care and nutrition. Life expectancy is higher in areas with greater literacy.

The Pakistan Bible Society has been working with churches to train teachers in different regions and establish literacy classes. Through these classes, women are taking steps towards the literacy and numeracy that most of us take entirely for granted.

The Pakistan Bible Society also provides all the resources needed to run the classes. This includes literacy syllabus books for the course as well as Scripture portions designed for beginners and Urdu Large Print New Testaments and Bibles.

Razia's story

"My name is Razia..." shared a grandmother from a rural colony in Pakistan. "The fundamentals are around our colony and we don't send our daughters to the school. Unfortunately we don't have school in our area for girls. I am 65 years old and mother of eight children. I wished that all my children should read and write but my sons got the opportunity to go to school." Razia told how her sons had completed their studies and were now working. But her daughters had not been educated and had married men living in the same colony with low incomes and limited opportunities.

"I also wished to read the Bible myself." Said Razia. "One day our Pastor announced that literacy classes for women are starting in the church compound." Explained Razia. "My

daughters and I joined the classes and now we are able to read the Bible", she said with excitement. Razia shared that five ladies now meet regularly in their home to read the Bible together. She is also proud to say that she has read the Bible from the pulpit in church.

Will You be a Beacon of Light?

We love how the Pakistan Bible Society are working with local churches to impact women and families in this way. You can be a part of this by praying for the ministry. Pray for women like Razia and her daughters who are discovering the Bible for themselves.

You can make a donation towards the project.

Your gift will help change lives.

- **£5** is the price of an Urdu Bible for a woman graduating from the course.
- **£27** covers the salary for a teacher for a whole month!
- **£70** will cover the cost of a literacy class for 1 woman.

If you would like to make a donation, fill in the form that came with your magazine, or visit www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/country/pakistan



This group of women gathered outside to learn skills they only ever dreamt of until now.

Pray With Us

You know that prayer is the power house behind everything that Bible Societies do. Time and again we see God kindly hearing our cries and responding by doing the impossible. We know that prayer has kept countless people safe as they minister in danger zones. Prayer has opened up never-before seen opportunities. Prayer has released resources from God's store house and prayer has opened up nations that were once closed.

Join us in praying for more. We continue to pray for the vision of making God's Word available to all people, in every language, in a format they can engage with and at a price they can afford. There is still lots to be done, but more people are hearing God's message and responding to His love every day.

Here are some of the ways you can pray:

- Use the pull-out pages in the centre of Word at Work to pray for each Bible Society every year.
- Sign up for Prayer News by email each month. This shares current prayers from other Bible Societies as well as local news and prayer items.
- Sign up for Extra Insight each month, focusing on one country which is also highlighted on our Bible-a-month supporter calendar.

Sign up for emails here www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/contact-us/sign-up-for-updates or have a look on our Prayer page here www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/get-involved/pray

Thank you for praying!



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Charity Commission No. NIC102557

W@W!

Word at Work

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

SUMMER 2019