



# W@W!

## Word at Work

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

AUTUMN 2019



**THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF LITHUANIA IS PRODUCING A LITHUANIAN SIGN LANGUAGE BIBLE. PAGES 14-15.**

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Cover photo shows a Lithuanian Sign Language translator, translating a passage from the Gospels. Read how you can make a difference on pages 14-15.



## Welcome

Catherine Little  
General Secretary, Bible Society NI

Change is inevitable, it keeps happening, sometimes we don't even see it coming, other times we can spend our time getting ready and preparing for change.

Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher, has been quoted as saying 'change is the only constant in life'. In our team at Bible Society NI we have been through lots of change over the last few months. We have seen changes to our staff team and therefore changes to the way we do things in the office.

In the Summer Word at Work we shared that Leah had moved on; in this issue we share that Julie also moved on to a new job in her church in Carrickfergus. With people leaving, that meant new people joining and we are delighted to be back with a full team of staff again. These staff changes have gone relatively smoothly and we are delighted to have Andrew and Keren as part of the Bible Society NI team and family.

We are really looking forward to 'The Gathering' on the 8th November in High Kirk Presbyterian Church in Ballymena at 7.30pm. This is the first of these events to happen and we are delighted to be welcoming

Simon Peter from the Bible Society of Uganda to share with us. It will be an opportunity to find out more, to meet other supporters and to be encouraged about the amazing work that you are part of through us.

Plans for BIBLE 2020 are really starting to build – have you signed up to be involved? You will read more about this on pages 12 and 13 of this magazine. We are looking forward to churches, groups, schools and individuals partnering with us to publicly read the Bible out loud all over Northern Ireland.

As we reflect on change and how that makes us feel we find hope and strength in the Bible – Malachi 3:6 'I the Lord do not change' or Hebrews 13:8 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever'. How we choose to view every situation is so important – let's be people who look forward to see and focus on the opportunities that change brings.

Thank you

*Catherine Little*



Executive Director Vilhelmina Kalinauskiene and her team have been working hard to create the first Lithuanian Sign Language Bible.



**Campbell Moore (Office Manager), Keren Roebuck (Communication and Fundraising Manager), Catherine Little (General Secretary), Andrew Dickson (Community Engagement Manager).**

## New Team for Bible Society NI

This year the theme at Bible House has definitely been change... two of our team moved on and we have welcomed two new people to the Bible Society family.

In our last Word at Work Magazine we shared about Leah leaving and Andrew joining our team. Since then we have had more change at Bible House with Julie moving on from the role of Communications Manager in April and Keren joining us as Communications and Fundraising Manager in June.

Both Leah and Julie had been with Bible Society in Northern Ireland for a long time,

together they served 26 years.

They have both moved on to ministry roles. Leah has been accepted to train for ordained ministry in the Methodist Church in Ireland starting in September and Julie accepted a job in her own church community in Carrickfergus. So, whilst we are sad to say goodbye, we are also excited for the new things that are ahead.

We know that our new team will continue the great work of Bible Society in Northern Ireland and will be involved in bringing new ideas and opportunities for the future too.

### Introducing Keren

I live in Ballymena and I'm a member of Ballymena Baptist Church. I love spending time adventuring, getting out and about exploring nature. I love sewing, painting and photography and am also a keen foodie- I enjoy making food as much as eating it!

I graduated from Ulster University Magee in July 2018 and for the past year I worked

in Mission Africa as their Short Term and Fundraising Officer. I have always had a heart for evangelism, both in Northern Ireland and further afield, and love the idea of a job that allows me to serve God!

I'm excited about this role and to use my skills God has given me. I appreciate your prayers as I settle into this new job and get to know all the wonderful people and projects God is working in.



**Keren Roebuck, our new Communications and Fundraising Officer.**

## Special Gifts on a Special Day

James and Hannah got married on the 31st July this year and decided to donate money for Bibles in China and in Cuba on behalf of their guests.

They donated money for 5 Bibles in China and 5 in Cuba. As a result, 10 people, families and communities will have been impacted with God's Word because this young couple thought to be generous at the time of their wedding.

We are always amazed at the creative ways that people raise money to support our work from sponsored walks, gifts instead of birthday presents and now gifts at a wedding. **Do you have a significant event coming up that you could raise money for our work?** Why not get in touch to see how we could help you raise money to help us **'Reach everyone with God's Word'**.



**Congratulations to Hannah and James on their special day!**



## Ministry Report

A new summary of our ministry activities in 2018 is available on our website [www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/what-we-do/about-us/accounts/](http://www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/what-we-do/about-us/accounts/)

Our full accounts are also available to view here as well. It is important to us that everyone understands how we look after the resources

that we have at Bible Society NI. We want to be good stewards of the financial support that we receive from our supporters and therefore aim to be transparent with what we do with those gifts.

If you are interested in finding out more do take a little look at our 2018 Ministry report.

## Summer Activity

Through the sunshine and heat, the wind and rain, our team spent time at Summer Madness (Ireland's largest Christian youth gathering) in Glenarm; Keswick Convention at Portstewart; New Wine in Sligo; Elim's Wondrous at Ulster University Jordanstown; New Horizon in Coleraine; Bangor Worldwide; and EQUIP – a new conference for University students run by Christian Unions Ireland – at Castlewellan Castle.

At each event, we have been raising awareness of our profile and the work we do locally and globally as well as encouraging people to partner with us prayerfully, financially, as volunteers and making use of our resources. Andrew and Catherine also had the opportunity to share

about BIBLE 2020 – more on that later in this magazine – when they led seminars at Summer Madness and New Wine respectively.

A big thank you to everyone who came along to say "hello" and encourage us in our work.



**The Bible Society NI stand at Summer Madness 2019.**

## Date for your Diary

Join us for an Advent Carol Service in St Mark's Church of Ireland Parish, Armagh on Sunday 1st December at 7pm with other Mission Agencies to share the impact of Mission all over the world.



**Simon Peter Mukhama, General Secretary of the Bible Society of Uganda.**

## The Gathering

We would love you to 'Gather' with us at our first supporters' event on **the 8th November in High Kirk Presbyterian Church, Ballymena, at 7.30pm.** This will be an evening of encouragement and information as well as an opportunity for us to say thank you for the many ways in which you support us throughout the year.

We look forward to meeting many of you in November when we will gather together to worship and give thanks to God for His generosity and faithfulness to our work. We will hear about things happening in Northern Ireland and other Bible Societies around the world.

**Simon Peter Mukhama, the General Secretary of the Bible Society of Uganda, will be with us as a special guest to share about work in his country and Bible Society.** There are many links between Northern Ireland and Uganda, and we are looking forward to hearing about the opportunities that he and his team are facing at this time, as well as ways that we can support work in Uganda further.

We have been supporting projects in Uganda for many years. Currently we are funding a translation revision of the

Acoli Bible as well as supporting work for Scripture materials for people with visual disabilities. You will remember reading about the Braille Bible projects in the Spring 2019 edition of this magazine. Thanks to your generosity the Bible Society of Uganda have completed the translation of the Lugandan Braille Bible and are now working hard to reach people with these Scripture materials.

The 'Gathering' will also be when we launch **BIBLE 2020** here in Northern Ireland. You can read more about BIBLE 2020 and how you can get involved on Pages 12 and 13. BIBLE 2020 is an exciting global project which encourages public Scripture reading and it is a really interactive way for everyone to get into the habit of daily Bible reading.

This will be an evening not to be missed if you want to know more about the exciting work of our Bible Society here in Northern Ireland and our impact around the world. It will be an opportunity to meet our team as well as meeting other supporters of our work.

To help us with catering on the evening please could you let us know if you are planning on attending and how many people you are bringing with you. Phone the office on: **028 9032 6577**  
Or send us an email at: **info@biblesocietyni.co.uk**

This will be a great way for new supporters to find out more about our work so why not encourage a few of your friends to come along too. Keep an eye on our website and social media for more information.



# Partnership with Girls' Brigade in Northern Ireland

Over the next year girls all over Northern Ireland will be learning about our work in the Bible Society in Northern Ireland through the Scripture Course in Girls' Brigade NI.

This exciting partnership developed over the idea of supporting the publishing and distribution of a bespoke book of Psalms to every Senior and Brigader girl in Girls' Brigade NI along with their leaders. These little books of Psalms are designed to allow each girl to interact with the words of the Psalms, to think about which verses they will memorise and to even have a go at writing their own Psalm.

Our mission statement of 'Reaching Everyone with God's Word' fits well with the aims and values of Girls' Brigade NI. It has been great to not only develop the book of Psalms but to also work on some of the Scripture course materials as well. Girls all over Northern Ireland will be learning about the Mary Jones story as well as the realities of Bible access around the world today.

We are looking forward to opportunities that will come from this partnership: for the ways that girls, their families, leaders and churches will be impacted by them going deeper into the book of Psalms as well as what the story of Mary Jones will inspire in a new generation of girls who are wanting to engage with the Bible.

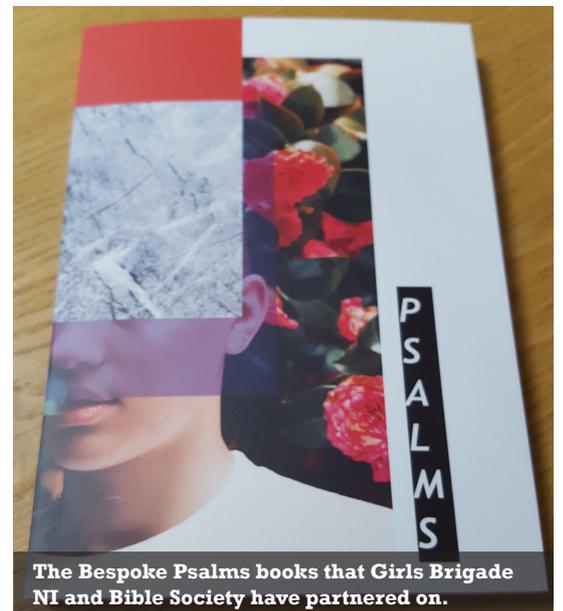
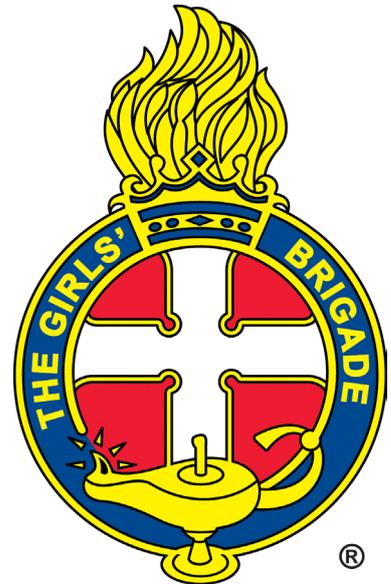
In our part of the Scripture Course we focused on Psalm 119: 105 – 'Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path'. This verse is very familiar to many of us, but it is so practical for today as well - the Bible provides wisdom for the

next step as well as for the steps ahead. This truth is even depicted in the GB logo with the lamp reminding us of the light that we are to be to those around us as well as the light that the Word of God is for us. We love that the Bible is central to what happens at Girls' Brigade NI and we want to encourage and celebrate that.

Many of you will have been involved in GB yourselves or perhaps your own children or grandchildren are still involved. Do encourage them this year as they delve into the book of Psalms and find out more about the work of Bible Society in Northern Ireland.

We look forward to hearing lots of great stories of Bible engagement from GB girls, their leaders and their churches over the coming months and then sharing them with you in Word at Work.

Do pray for GB companies across Northern Ireland and the work that they do to build and develop faith in girls from all over our country.



The Bespoke Psalms books that Girls Brigade NI and Bible Society have partnered on.



Bible Society NI's Catherine Little and Andrew Dickson with Girls Brigade NI's Lesley Beare.

# P@W!

## Prayer at Work

PULL OUT AND KEEP PRAYER GUIDE

AUTUMN 2019

**Overcoming Obstacles.** We are often faced with many disheartening obstacles when we try to reach people with God's Word. Thankfully we have a God who hears our prayers and answers us. Thank you for joining with us as we pray for the work going on around the world.

**Ways to Pray** You can sign up for prayers through our website at [www.biblesocietyni.co.uk](http://www.biblesocietyni.co.uk) where the following prayer resources are available:

**Extra Insight** is a single country focus on the 1st of the month, expanding on the projects also in our Bible-a-month calendar. **Prayer News** is sent on the 15th of each month with current prayers from Bible Societies around the world as well as local news and prayer.

### Terms & Abbreviations

**FCBH:** Faith Comes by Hearing - A programme providing audio Scripture for listening groups, set up mainly through local churches. **Trauma Healing:** Bible-Based counselling for survivors of traumas such as epidemics, disasters or war. **Good Samaritan Project:** A Bible-based HIV/AIDS education programme. Workshop based, multi-media training. **GS:** General Secretary. **CEO:** Chief Executive Officer. **OT/NT:** Old/New Testament.

### SEP 29 - OCT 5

**Tajikistan** Pray for those undertaking the correction work of the existing translation of the Tajik Bible. The church in Tajikistan is still small and they face discrimination and persecution as it is a Muslim-majority country. Pray also for their children's camps and their trauma healing projects, that many lives would be impacted. Pray for Shuhratjon Nigmatov as he leads the team.

**Uzbekistan** Pray that the work carried out by the Bible Society here reaches every individual, thus making the Bible available in formats and translations that can meet their needs. Pray that scriptures would continue to be produced in audio, large print and children's editions. Pray also for FCBH groups and for the development of their website.

### OCT 6-12

**Eritrea** Pray for the various Bible translations being completed. Pray for work amongst Muslims and that God will reach these people. Pray for those working for the Bible Society of Eritrea and that God would continue to strengthen them.

**Ethiopia** Pray for the Ethiopian Bible Society and their work led by GSYilma Getahun. Pray for the FCBH and Trauma Healing projects. Pray that publishing projects may attract more people to the Bible's message.

**Central African Republic** Pray for a lasting peace following many years of war. Pray for the rebuilding of the Bible Society offices after they were destroyed. Pray for the Bible Society's projects including FCBH, Trauma Healing and Literacy programmes. Pray for the team led by Executive Secretary Sylvain Ndjendolé.

### OCT 13-19

**El Salvador** Pray for GS Pablo Gonzalez as he leads the Bible Society in El Salvador. Pray for all the children participating in the "Fear Not" programme who are putting the teachings of the Bible into practice. Pray that God will bring peace to the violence in El Salvador.

**Honduras** Pray for protection for GS Jorge Gomez and the other members of the Bible Society's team, as they live in one of the world's most violent countries. Pray for the work amongst the police force as they share the Bible with officers. Pray for safety of those carrying out projects here.

**Guatemala** Praise God for the projects in Guatemala helping young people and gang members. Pray that at-risk children can be reached by God's Word. Pray that more people will have access to the Bible in their language. Pray God would bless GS Saúl Sosa Urizar.

### OCT 20-26

**Norway** GS Paul Erik Wirgenes leads the team in Norway. Pray for the distribution of the Word of God to the churches and the translation of the Bible into the North Sami language. Pray for the churches in Norway so that more people will read and engage with God's Word.

**Iceland** Ask God to make the Bible's message more widely known in Iceland. Thank God for the work that has been carried out by GS Gudmundur Brynjolfsson and the Bible Society team. Pray that they can continue to create strong connections with churches.

**Faro Islands** Pray for strengthened relationships with local churches. Ask God to spread the Bible's message in this country. Thank God for GS Gunnar Nattestadall, and all the people who work with the Faroese Bible Society.

### Bible-a-month Project: Peru

There is a real physical need in Peru-children are going hungry. Poverty is widespread in rural areas and often people are unable to feed their children. The "Bread of Life" project has been a real blessing to many of these families. Children are provided with breakfast, but they are also told about Jesus. They learn how to pray and sing, as well as being provided with their own Bible Storybook.

- Praise God for this opportunity to show the love of Christ to so many children and families. Pray that people would be impacted by this.
- Pray for the volunteers who help with the programme. Thank God for them and pray He would sustain them.
- Pray for funding for the Bread of Life project. Pray that God would provide all that is needed to keep this project going for another year.



## OCT 27-NOV 2

**Estonia** Pray for the efforts going on in Estonia to engage the secular population with the Bible. Thank God for the weekly radio programmes which reach so many people. Pray that people would be challenged by what they hear and would seek to find out more. Pray for the team led by GS Jaan Bärenson, that they would be encouraged in their work.

**Latvia** Please pray for GS Valdis Teraudkalns and the other staff and volunteers involved with the Latvian Bible Society. Pray for the recently started Bible revision, that God would give wisdom to those contributing to this. Thank God for the relationships with local churches and pray that these would continue to strengthen.

**Lithuania** Please continue to pray for the New Testament translation into modern Lithuanian. Pray for the translation of the Bible into Lithuanian sign language, and that it would be a blessing to those who are deaf. Remember GS Vilhelmina Kalinauskiene and the rest of the team and translators in your prayers.

## NOV 3-9

**South Africa** Thank God for His blessings and for donors that enable projects to be carried out. Please pray that the English Bible for the Deaf, which will be published this year, will be well received and for its impact on the lives of deaf readers. Pray for the planning of the celebration of our Bicentenary in 2020. Pray for CEO Dirk Gevers and his team as they work on these projects.

**Lesotho** Please pray for the ongoing SiPhuthi Oral Bible Translation. It is important that these people have the Bible available to them in their own language. Praise God for the work already being carried out in Lesotho and ask Him that it may continue. The work here is led by GS Inahaneng Tsekana.

**Eswatini (Swaziland)** Thank God for the work that has been carried out by the Bible Society in this country, including work on the Siswati Study Bible. Pray for the Leadership Initiative programme as they seek to teach good leadership and that God raises up leaders with Bible-based values. Pray for the team, led by GS Ngcebo Mbuli as they lead and work on projects.

## NOV 10-16

**France** Pray for the continued development of the first French Family Bible and that it will be beneficial to families around the country. Pray for the French Bible Society, led by GS Jonathan Boulet, in their work to make the Bible more accessible to young people and those with disabilities. Pray also for this increasingly secular society and that God would bring people back to Him.

**Spain** Pray for work on the translation of the Bible into the Gallego language. There are 4 official languages in Spain and Gallego is the last language to have an updated translation of the Bible available to believers. Praise God for the work in Spain, led by GS Luis Fajardo, and pray that it continues.

**Portugal** Please thank God for

the anniversary of 200 Years of the Almeida translation. Pray for the Congress, the exhibition and the future Museum House, all intended to celebrate the life and work of the man who translated the Bible into Portuguese. Pray for the revision of the Almeida Translation and that people would be able to read and understand this updated version. The work here is led by Executive Director Miguel Jerónimo.

## NOV 17-23

**Gambia** Pray that God would meet the needs of the Bible Society in the Gambia so that they can continue ministering there. Gambia can be a difficult environment for Christians. Pray for the youth and children's programmes, literacy classes and the Old Testament translation into Jola. Pray for CEO Michael Ellis and all who work in Gambia, and that God would continue to grow His church.

**Guinea** Pray for the ongoing translation of the Bible into the Toma language. Although the New Testament is available, the Christian Toma people have expressed the desire to have the complete Bible. Pray also for the FCBH groups in this country. Please ask that those working with the Bible Society in Guinea-Conarky, led by Executive Secretary Robert Iffono, would be strengthened and encouraged.

**Senegal** Pray that the project to help revive Sunday schools in local churches would be successful, and that God would raise up the future leaders of the church. Pray for their literacy programmes amongst women and girls in Senegal, and for ongoing work with vulnerable

children. The Bible Society in Senegal is led by Executive Secretary Ousseynou Ngom.

## NOV 24-30

**The Gulf** Thank the Lord for the opportunity in 2018 to take part in the International Book Fair in the Kingdom of Bahrain. There are 23 projects for 2019, including distribution of Scriptures to migrants, Trauma Healing, work with young people, hospital visitations, a literacy programme, and many more. Pray for strength and encouragement of the team led by GS Hrayr Jebejian.

**Iraq** Thank God for all His grace. Please pray to relieve the suffering of the refugees who returned to their homes only to find them destroyed. Pray for the Trauma Healing Programme, that it can be expanded to reach all regions of Iraq. Pray also for the safety of all staff and volunteers, led by Nabil Omiesh and that people's hearts would be open to the Gospel.

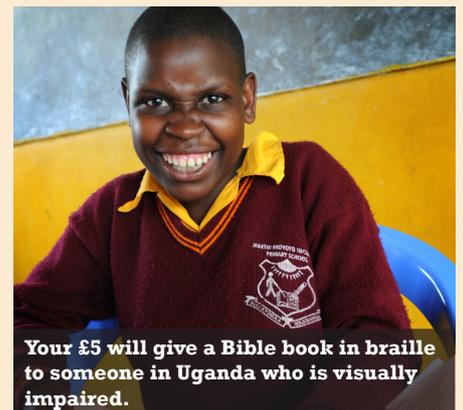
**Iran (In Diaspora)** The Iranian Bible Society currently has their offices outside Iran, but the team prays that one day they will be able to return to Iran. Pray for those who work and volunteer, including Executive Director Nahid Sepehrifard, that they would be kept safe and that they would be able to reach many people with God's Word.

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

## Bible-a-month Project : Uganda

A Braille Bible is a very significant gift for someone who is blind. Life isn't easy for these people who live in a society where people who are blind are often ignored and marginalised. Having a Braille Bible teaches them God wants a personal relationship with them, and recognises they have a place in society. The Bible Society in Uganda often visits schools for the disabled, sharing the Gospel and supplying them with God's Word.

- Pray that this work would be able to continue, and Braille Bibles would be available to everyone who needs them.
- Pray that those who receive these Bibles would understand the message and the significance of the Gospel in their lives.
- Praise God for this opportunity to spread His Word to those with vision impairments.



**Your £5 will give a Bible book in braille to someone in Uganda who is visually impaired.**

## DEC 1-7

**Japan** Please ask that God's Word can touch the hearts of non-Christians, who account for 99% of the entire population. Pray for the translation of the Bible into Japanese sign language, and that those with a hearing disability would be able to access the Gospel. The Japan Bible Society is led by GS Makoto Watabe.

**North Korea** Christians are still persecuted in North Korea. Please pray that the peace talks between the North and the South will open the doors for the Bible Work and that God's Word will reach people for whom the Gospel has long been forbidden.

**South Korea** Please pray that God will grant wisdom as the Korean Bible Society continue their work in Bible publishing and mobilise support for their Scripture donation programme. Pray for the team led by Jae Min Ho.

**Taiwan** Please pray for the team of staff, volunteers and board led by GS Daniel Cheng. Pray for the publication of the CUV 100 Commemorative Bible and Thanksgiving Service. Pray also that the TCV Study Bible, the Taiwanese Aboriginal Bible and the Study Bibles series will all be published. Ask for more Churches to participate in the Handwritten Bible project and for good participation from churches.

## DEC 8-14

**Kazakhstan** Pray for the work carried out by Bible Society in Kazakhstan under conditions

of persecution. Pray for the new translation of the Kazakh Bible and the distribution of Bibles. Pray that they would be able to reach people in remote areas. Thank God for the strong relationships with other Bible Societies in the area and pray for Executive Director Viktor Grishko as he leads the work.

**Kyrgyzstan** Islam is growing more and more in Kyrgyzstan. Please pray that the country opens up to the true God. Praise God for all the work that the Bible Society has been able to do in this country so far. Pray for their work amongst Muslims and migrants. Pray for Executive Secretary Roman Fedyanin and his team as they carry out the work in Kyrgyzstan.

**Mongolia** Pray for Executive Director Bayarmagnai Bayardalai. Pray for the work amongst people with physical disabilities, including the translations of the Bible into Braille and sign language. Please pray for their fundraising activities as they seek to raise enough to buy their own offices. Pray also for the updating of the Mongolian translation of the Bible.

## DEC 15-21

**Laos** Please pray for the literacy distribution projects. Ask God that they will be able to provide Bibles to as many people as possible. Pray also for the training of local staff to carry out literacy, translation, distribution and publication projects. Thank God for the staff of the Bible Society in Laos (Laos Partnership) led by Executive Director Pairanya

Sahassawas.

**Myanmar** Thank God for the divine provision and protection of His Word through the Bible Society. Pray for encouragement for those working for the Bible Society of Myanmar, led by Khoi Lam Thang, and praise God for their hard work. Pray for their work in translating the Bible into many local languages and their outreach into the many ethnic minorities in Myanmar.

**Sri Lanka** Thank God for the work that is ongoing in Sri Lanka, led by GS Priyantha Wijegoonawardane. Pray for the revision of the Tamil Bible and the translation of Parables into Sri Lankan sign language. Pray also for their Trauma Healing projects, working with vulnerable people and helping them with the message of the Gospel.

## DEC 22-28

**Madagascar** Thank God for the organisation of the General Assembly in mid-2019, and for the renewal of the Governance body and the preparation of the future executive leadership. Pray for the Malagasy Bible Society as they seek to supply theology students with scholarly resources and as they develop the Malagasy study Bible.

**Mauritius** Pray for the team here led by Executive Director Gerard Lam Hing. Pray that the Bible Society of Mauritius would be able to reach as many people as possible with the Bible and that lives would be changed. Thank God for the support of other

Bible Societies around the world enabling them to continue their work.

**Seychelles** Pray for the trauma healing projects and the work with children and young people. Ask that these projects would be successful and that the Gospel would be shared. Pray that the presence of the Bible Society in the Seychelles would continue to grow. The team here is led by Executive Secretary Margaret Maillet.

## DEC 29-JAN 4

**Niger** Pray for the Bible Society of Niger as they seek to evangelise in a predominately Muslim setting. Pray for the many efforts to make God's Word known including, FCBH, literacy work, Trauma Healing and translation works. Pray for the children and youth of this country, that they would be reached with the message of the Bible. Pray also that Executive Secretary Yaye Hama and the team would be encouraged.

**Nigeria** The Bible Society in Nigeria is led by Dare Ajiboye. Pray that God will restore peace in every part of Nigeria. There is currently trouble with Islamic extremists in this country. Pray that the Bible translations will transform the lives of the people and that more people will come to faith. Pray that the literacy programmes and the Nigerian sign language Bible will help all people to interact with the Word of God.

## Bible-a-month Project: Palestine

Many years ago, Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem. Today we want to make sure that children in this city want to hear the good news. The "Child of Bethlehem" project is teaching the children of Bethlehem all about Jesus and God's Word. Youth camps, events, puppet shows and school programmes are all used to share Jesus Christ with the young people of Bethlehem. Teams of volunteers are bringing the Bible alive as they interact with these children and share Bible stories with them.

- Praise God for the opportunity to speak to children about Salvation. Pray for their families that, as they go back to their homes, God will open their family's hearts too.
- Pray that God will use this work and bring children to Him.
- This work can only continue when the Bible Society receives funding. Pray that the Lord will provide vital funding for this project so that it may continue.



This month £5 will give a Children's or Youth Bible to a young person in Bethlehem.

## JAN 5-11

**Sudan** Pray for the ongoing translations of the Bible into the Otoro language and that it would be a useful tool for Otoro Christians. Pray for the Trauma Healing programme and that God would use it to add to His Kingdom. Thank God for the team that works for the Bible Society, led by Ismail Abdulrahman Kanani in Sudan.

**South Sudan** Please pray for peace in South Sudan. There is much fighting and at times it is very unsafe. Pray also for the construction of the Bible Mission House. Pray for safety for the team led by Executive Secretary Edward Kajivora. Pray for their Trauma Healing programmes, literacy projects and emergency relief to displaced people.

## JAN 12-18

**Malawi** Pray for the Lambya Bible Translation, spoken by people living in the furthest north of Malawi, and Yawo Tazi Bible translation for the population in the eastern part of Malawi. Pray for projects supplying Sunday Schools with Children's Bibles. Pray also for the Family Engagement Scripture packs project.

Thank God for the team and GS Clapperton Mayuni.

**Kenya** Pray for the Bible Society of Kenya as they seek to supply scholarly Bibles to theological seminaries, Bible schools and universities. Pray for the outreach to children and young people through sport and other evangelistic projects. Pray for their HIV awareness workshops in churches. Pray for the team led by GS Elizabeth Muriuki.

**Tanzania** Thank God for the work of the Bible Society of Tanzania and pray that the team led by GS Alfred Kimonge would be encouraged. Pray for the Kiha translation of the Bible as it is printed and distributed. Pray that God will bless the work amongst those with disabilities and that they would see the love of Christ through these programmes.

## JAN 19-25

**Hungary** Thank God for the Hungarian Study Bible and the Bible distribution to the Romany people in southern Ukraine. Please pray for their plans for 2020, including the Ecumenical Bible translation and the ongoing New Testament in Hungarian Sign Language project. Pray also for their supporters and staff, led by GS Ottó Pecsuk, as

they celebrate their 70th anniversary.

**Moldova** The work in Moldova is led by Executive Director Anatoly Kirillov. Pray for political and economic stability in this country, and for wisdom for their leaders. Pray for the mobile bookshop, a bus filled with Bibles and Christian books, that travels the country distributing them to remote communities.

**Slovenia** Please pray that the Slovenian people may find Christ through His Word and that the new missionary programme, "Spiritual Growth with the Bible," will help lead people to God. Pray for them as they develop new strategies to spread the Gospel through digital media. Pray also for strengthening their partnerships with all Churches and ministries, and for GS Matjaž Crnivec and his team.

## JAN 26-FEB 1

**Colombia** Ask for lasting peace within Colombia. Pray for the many Bible translation projects ongoing, including the completion of the Wayuunaiki and Nasa Yuwe translations. Pray for the work on the audio-dramatisation of the Bible and that it would challenge those who listen to it. The

work in Colombia is led by General President Diana Leal and her team.

**Peru** Pray for the "Bread of Life" and "End to Violence" projects, so that children can grow up healthy, safe and knowing the Bible. Pray for the translations of the Bible into Machiguenga and Quechua Apurímac. Pray also for the evangelisation and discipleship initiatives carried out with Churches, that they will help to reduce violence and corruption in society. The work here is led by Executive Director Pablo Gutierrez.

**Ecuador** Pray for the portions of the Bible being translated into the Kichwa Unificado language and for the revision of the Quichua Imbabura Bible. Pray that through these projects more people would engage with the Scripture and that they would come to know Jesus. Thank God for the Bible Society in Ecuador, led by Executive Director Daniel Oliva.

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

## Bible-a-month 2020

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

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

- Pray that God would provide translators for the languages that have no Scriptures yet.
- Pray for the many translation projects going on around the world. Pray for wisdom for those translating the Scriptures.
- Pray for the millions of people around the world who don't have a Bible. Ask God to provide the funding and the resources for everyone to one day have a Bible of their own.



The graphic features a hand holding a small Bible against a blue background. To the right, the text reads "Bible-a-month Calendar 2020" with the Bible Society Northern Ireland logo below it. At the bottom, a dark blue banner contains the text: "Sign up to Bible-a-month today and provide someone with a Bible every month."

## The Translation Road Map

The Translation Road Map is a bold and ambitious plan from the United Bible Societies (UBS) Fellowship to **reduce Bible Poverty by over 50% by 2033**. The driving hope and aspiration is that all people will be able to have the Bible in their chosen language, in their chosen medium and in their chosen time and place.

In the Summer Word at Work we shared the latest Scripture Access statistics which show that **over 240 million people in the world do not have any Scripture available in their language**. This Translation Road Map vision has been made possible through partnership with many other agencies involved in translation work including ETEN (Every Tribe Every Nation). UBS celebrates the strategic goals that ETEN have in place – that by 2033:

- 95% of the population will have the full Bible
- 99.99% of the population will have the New Testament
- 100% of the population will have some Scriptures available.

Over the next 20 years UBS wants to complete the portfolio of translations that are currently underway and increase Bible engagement globally. This will not be easy – there are many factors that impact on translation for example finding and training the right people to be involved. War, sickness and family circumstances can also have an impact on the translation process.

Bible translation is a long term and dynamic process as languages constantly change. This work is not simple and requires dedication and commitment from the local community to see the project through.

Here in Northern Ireland we have always made Bible translation a priority. We have made a commitment that at least 20% of



The Bible Society in Northern Ireland is supporting 7 different translation projects this year.



A group of translators working on the Tinggian translation of the New Testament in the Philippines.

our funding will go towards translation projects, in 2019 we are supporting 7 different translation projects. This includes a New Testament translation in the Philippines into the Tinggian language. Once finished this will be the first time that this people group will have a complete New Testament. We have been the sole funders of this project through the generosity of one lady who left us a large gift in her will and the support of a Trust in Northern Ireland.

You can find out more and support a translation project for Scriptures into Lithuanian Sign Language on pages 14 and 15 of this magazine.

As we look forward we want to support this ambitious Translation Road Map here in Northern Ireland. It is hard for us to comprehend not having a Bible in our own language but sadly this is the reality for many. Together as Bible Societies around the world we can change this for people groups who are still waiting on words of Scripture in their heart language.

### Sign up for more news like this

Would you like to receive updates on Bible mission work from all over the world every month? – sign up to receive our monthly Prayer News email on our website - <https://biblesocietyni.co.uk/contact-us/sign-up-for-updates/>



The Bible 2020 app will be available on smart phones and tablets.

## Bible 2020

At Bible Society NI we really care about the Bible. We are passionate about “Reaching Everyone with God’s Word”, believing wholeheartedly that the Bible is a gift for people of all ages, in every place, no matter their gender, background, life story or learning ability.

Our heart is for people, in Northern Ireland and across the wider world, to have the chance to access, engage and respond to the Word of God that they might be transformed as they encounter Jesus and discover his incredible purpose for their life.

In short, we want to see the world changed by the Word.

To help us see this dream come to life we want to invite you to get involved in an exciting global Bible reading and speaking project throughout all of next year known as BIBLE 2020.

BIBLE 2020 is a Bible engagement app for smartphones and tablets which has the vision to see everyone, everywhere reading the Bible aloud every day in 2020. If you don’t have access to a smartphone or tablet, don’t worry; the reading plan will be available on our

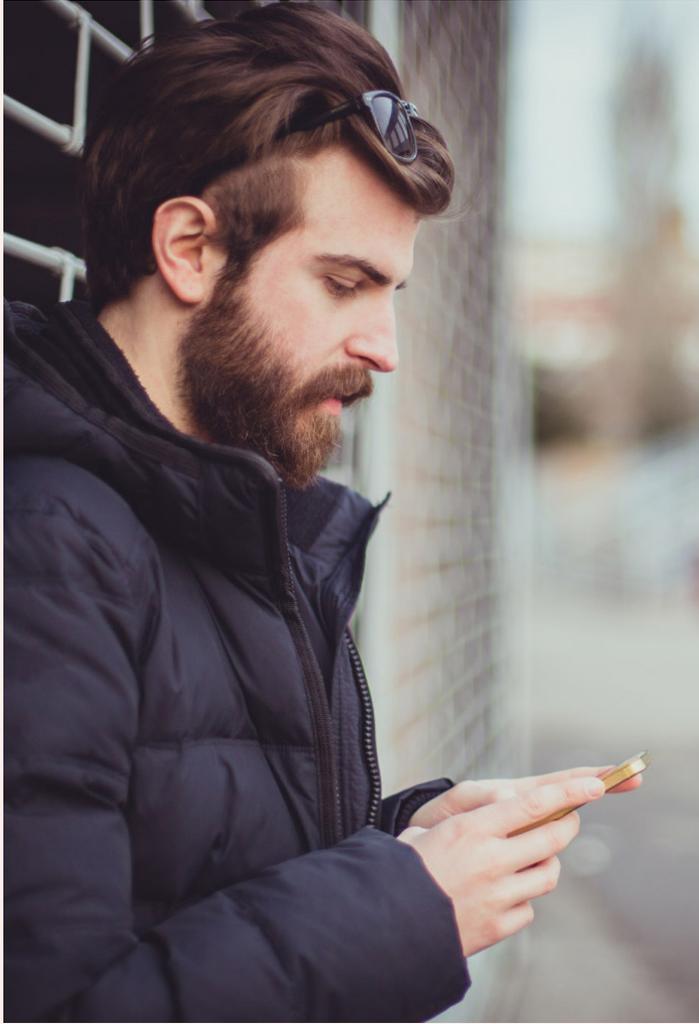
website here: [www.biblesocietyni.co.uk](http://www.biblesocietyni.co.uk) for you to view and follow along with us!

We believe BIBLE 2020 is a project that has the potential to excite, equip and disciple the local church as well as send us on mission so that lives will be transformed and the world changed forever as we share and people hear the living Word of God. And all of this alongside other believers from across the world and at the touch of a button.

### Can you imagine it?

Everyone, everywhere reading the Bible aloud Everyday throughout 2020? The eternal impact as seeds of faith and life are sown and God’s Spirit moves as you and other individuals, churches, groups and schools, full of boldness and excitement, engage with the Bible every day; speaking it out; praying for the Kingdom of God to come alive in your local area – and all as part of a wider global community?





# Lives will be changed!

Like our colleagues in other Bible Societies across the world, we are really enthusiastic about this project and the potential of it all and we want to encourage you to be part of this with us.

As part of BIBLE 2020 you and your church/group/school will have the opportunity to:

- Engage in a short daily Bible reading;
- Read the Bible in a variety of languages and versions;
- Have the chance to video record yourself speaking aloud the daily passage;
- Upload your video to your social media – mobilising mission – as well as to a global wall where you can watch the videos of other participants from around the world who are involved in BIBLE 2020;
- Establish community groups to enable accountability, discipleship and more, and;
- See, join and create events to put the Bible into the public sphere in your area.

We want to see individual Christians, Churches, Groups and Schools proclaiming words of **hope, purpose** and **life** over our **communities, nation** and **beyond**.

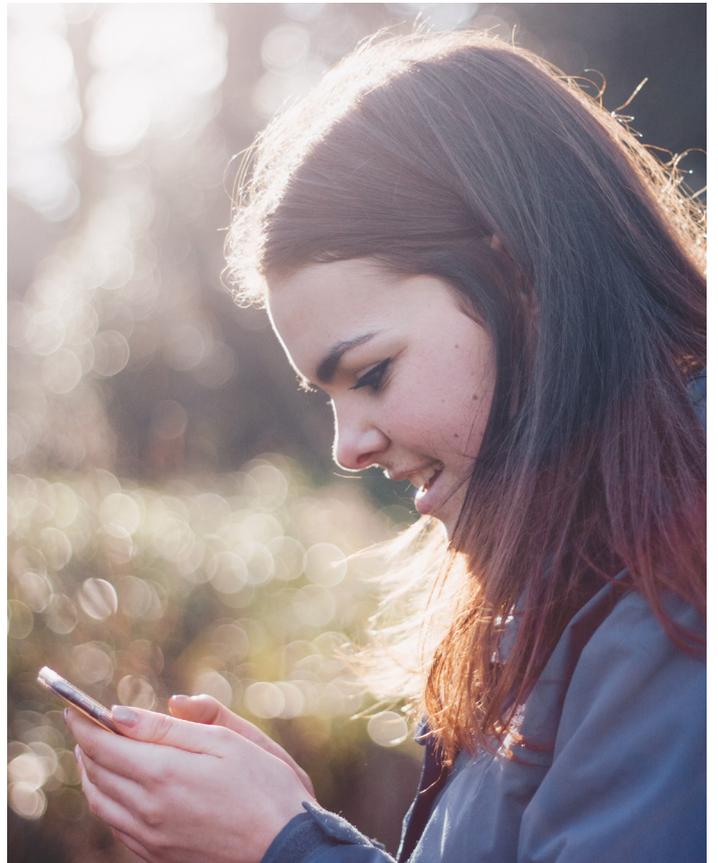
Will you join with us as an individual and say “Yes” to reading your Bible and speaking it out loud every day in 2020?

Could your church, group or school community come together and be:

- 1 of 5 in Northern Ireland who will take on the **BIBLE 2020 : 365 Challenge** of reading, speaking and sharing the Word of God everyday next year?
- 1 of 12 to take on the **BIBLE 2020 : 1 in 12 Challenge** who will read, speak and share the words of the Bible every day for one month in 2020?
- 1 of 52 who commit to the **BIBLE 2020 : 1 WEEK Challenge** as you read, speak and share the Bible every day for one week next year?

If you are interested, we would love to hear from you and begin this journey of impact, discovery, discipleship, mission, community, action and more, as you read and proclaim the Bible over your local area.

Let's go change the world with the Word through BIBLE 2020. For, as God says, his Word **“...will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” (Isaiah 55:11)**



# Lithuania Appeal

## Translating the Bible into Lithuanian Sign Language

Over 5% of the world's population, around 466 million people, have hearing loss that is debilitating. Yet none of the 135 different Sign Languages around the world has its own complete Bible.

Most countries do not share the same sign language as their spoken language, thus making it even harder for people with hearing loss to understand the Bible. This leaves deaf people isolated from the rest of the Christian community and unable to fully grasp the message of the Gospel.

The long-term aim of the Bible Society in Lithuania is to translate the New Testament into Lithuanian Sign Language, beginning with the Gospels, for use in the community of 8,000 people who use Lithuanian Sign language as their native and only language.

### The Translation Team

The translation of the Bible into Lithuanian Sign Language began in 2015 when a man named Andrius Barisevicius reached out to the Bible Society with a vision for making the Bible accessible for deaf Lithuanians. Andrius is a hearing Christian who works as a Religious Education teacher in a school for deaf children. He is helped by another member of the translation team, Tomas Ivanauskas, a deaf translator who teaches Sign Language in University. Both men are Believers who feel that it is their duty, not only

to the deaf community, but to God to carry out this translation. So far, they have completed the translation of the Gospel of Mark and are currently working on the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

### From Text to Actions - The Process of Translation

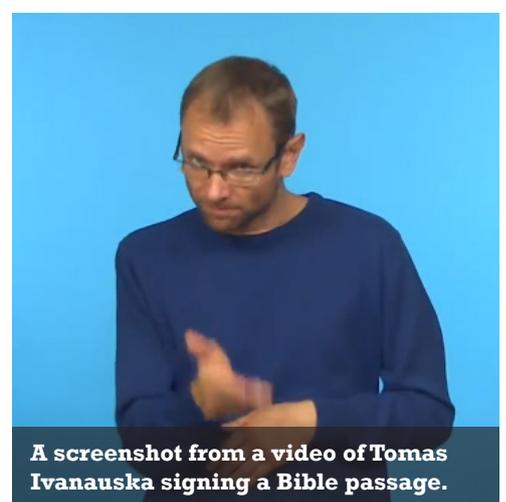
The translation of each passage begins with Andrius examining the Bible text and putting it in a way that is more understandable for the deaf. Andrius also marks some particularities that need to be addressed. Sometimes he films himself on a smartphone to show how he envisions the translated phrase or passage. Tomas, who shows the text in gestures, ensures that the video looks "alive", conveying the richness and multiple layers of a passage. The team strives for the highest standard of translation without distortions and gaps, but also in an aesthetic and attractive way.

Most hearing people have little understanding of how different any Sign Language is from the spoken one, how complex and challenging the process of translation is. For example, the gesture for the verb "touch" includes the way of touching (what part of the arm was used) and the place of touch (what part of body was touched). When translating a mood of a person, meaning is conveyed by employing the whole body and facial expressions.

To be able to serve their audience, the translators needed to gain a lot of specific knowledge on the context of a passage and creatively find a way to express tricky phrases. For example, the gestures for the phrase "sat at the table" need to safeguard the reader from the impression of using chairs and other modern furniture in those ancient times. It is these complexities which makes the translation into Sign Language a longer process.



It takes much care and creativity for Lithuanian Sign Language users to translate a passage of Scripture.



A screenshot from a video of Tomas Ivanauskas signing a Bible passage.

# Use of the Translation

The full Gospel of Mark and part of Matthew have already been translated and are accessible to all through the deaf community's website. It is a simple, user-friendly website that allows the viewer to watch the sign language video while following along with the written Word.

You can have a look at the videos of the Gospel of Mark and Matthew on the Lithuanian Sign Language website here: [biblija.surdo.lt](http://biblija.surdo.lt)

The Bible Society of Lithuania have recently had the opportunity to present the Gospel in a school for deaf children. The children were thoroughly engaged with the slides and videos and had no trouble understanding their message, including the fingerspelt places and Biblical concepts. What was more important though, the children kept discussing the Bible passage and its meaning for their own lives, even after the lesson ended.

## Will You Help Bring Hope to the Deaf in Lithuania?

God is using the Bible into Lithuanian Sign Language to reach those who cannot hear, but this work needs the support of the Bible Society in Northern Ireland. There are two things you can do to help the Lithuanian Bible Society:



The Bible Society of Lithuania had the privilege to present the Gospel in Sign Language to a group of students.



A group of students learn to sign the Lord's Prayer.

### 1. Pray:

- Pray that the Lithuanian Sign Language Bible would reach the hearts of all those who encounter it. Praise God that His Word surpasses every disability.
- Pray that the team that is translating the Bible would be encouraged by the reception of the first translated Gospels. Pray that they would be given the strength and enthusiasm to continue in this work until the full Bible is available.
- Pray for the people who are already benefiting from the Gospels translated into Lithuanian Sign Language.
- Pray that schools would continue to share them with the pupils and that lives would be changed.

### 2. Donate towards this project:

- **£10** will fund an individual translator to work for one day on the Lithuanian Sign Language Bible.
- **£50** will fund an entire team of five translators to work for one day on the Lithuanian Sign Language Bible.
- **£250** will fund an entire team of five translators to work for a week on the Lithuanian Sign Language Bible.

If you would like to help us support the Lithuanian Bible Society in this work, you can donate by simply filling in the form that came with this magazine, or visit our website at [biblesocietyni.co.uk/project/lithuania-sign-language-new-testament](http://biblesocietyni.co.uk/project/lithuania-sign-language-new-testament)

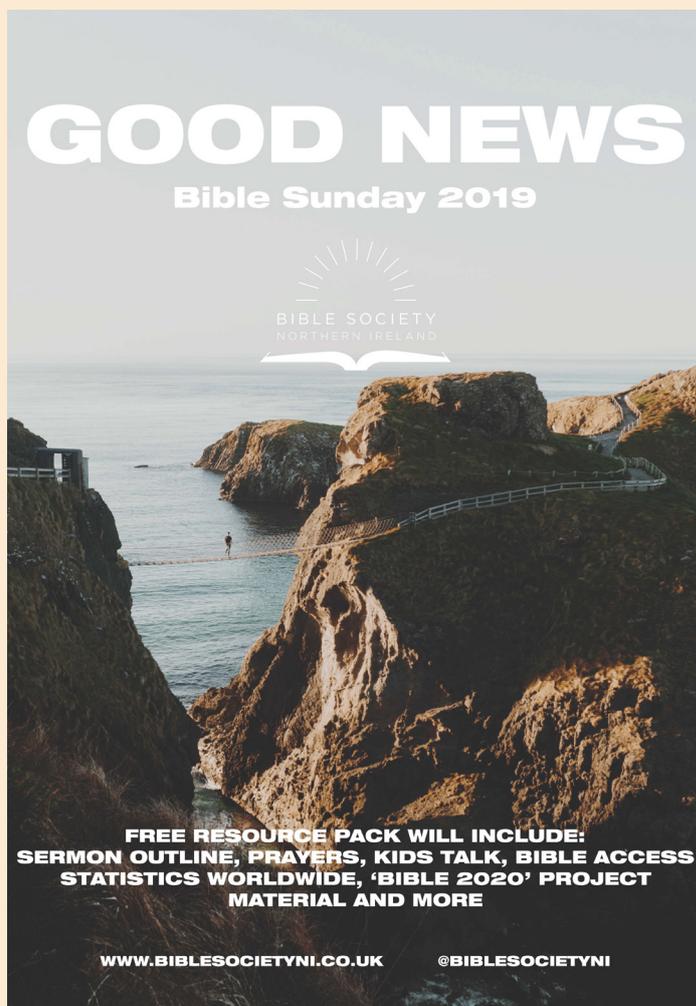
# Good News



## Bible Sunday

Every year the Bible Society Northern Ireland produces a resource to help churches run a "Bible Sunday" service. This resource focuses on our access to the Bible and what a blessing it is to have it so available to us. We also take a look at those around the world who do not have access to the Bible, and what Bible Societies across the globe are doing to help bring God's Word to all people. This pack is free and can be adapted to any style of service.

**The Bible Sunday 2019 resource is a free pack for your church. Have a look at [www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/resources/bible-sunday](http://www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/resources/bible-sunday) for more information and to download a pack.**



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## Word at Work

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