



BIBLE SOCIETY  
NORTHERN IRELAND

# Wow!

## Word at Work

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

SPRING 2020



SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH SLUM DWELLERS IN INDIA. PAGES 14-15.

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Cover photo shows a young girl who has received a Scripture book through the Empowering Slum Dwellers project in India.



## Welcome

Catherine Little  
General Secretary, Bible Society NI

In 2019 I created a 'Things to Do' list for myself. It included targets for how many times I would complete and volunteer at a Park Run; a target for how many books of various genres I would read. It had practical house things on there and it also had things that would help with my own self-care. I have made a new list for 2020 that has some of the same things and some new things for me to aim for in this new year.

If we don't write a target down how will we know we have achieved it? The same applies to our work at Bible Society in Northern Ireland. We have targets, hopes and vision for this year and beyond.

We are so excited for our new project, **BIBLE 2020**, which is now launched and started. Together with people all over the world, we are reading Scripture out loud across Northern Ireland. Hundreds, maybe even thousands, of people are seeing those posts. We are reaching out with God's Word. Find out more and see the plan of readings on page 12.

We continue to support our Bible

Society colleagues around the world financially and prayerfully – will you continue to help us do both of these things this year? We are supporting some new projects including a children's Bible engagement project in Uruguay which we are having a go at as well – will you draw a Bible story or verse for our competition? – see page 13.

Our 2020 Daily Bible Reading Guide is available for you and your church to use – getting into the habit of reading God's Word is always beneficial.

We had a great evening at 'The Gathering' in November 2019 when Simon Peter from the Bible Society of Uganda joined us to share about his work and context – read more about the evening on pages 4 & 5.

Every blessing for this next year,

*Catherine Little*

'May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.' (2 Corinthians 13:14)



The Bible Society of India is bringing hope to those who live in slums.

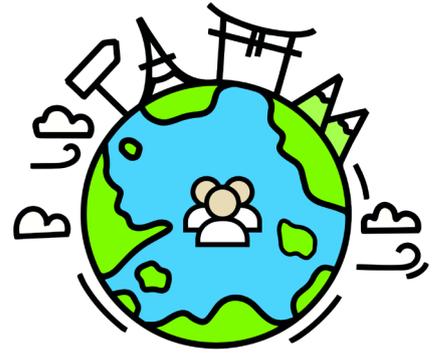
# Local News

**Friday 27th March at 8pm** will see a new musical presented by Dungannon Methodist Church and Friends in the Marketplace Theatre in Armagh. 'Three Ordinary Men' will tell the story of the lives of courageous men who changed the world.

One of these featured men is D L Moody, who had great faith in God and acted on this to make the world a better place. The others will be revealed on the evening. The evening will include drama, singing and instrumental music – you will leave feeling entertained and challenged.

This is an event suitable for all the family. **Tickets are available from the Marketplace Theatre in Armagh, £12 (Concession price £10).**

Proceeds from the event are kindly being donated to our work. We really appreciate the support and friendship from Eleanor and the team at Dungannon Methodist.



## three ordinary men who changed the world

# The Bible Course

This 8 session course helps participants to explore the BIG story of the Bible. Author Andrew Ollerton has partnered with our colleagues in England and Wales to make this material available in its current manual and DVD format.

We have made this course available to many churches in Northern Ireland who have used it to help their congregations to grow in their understanding of the Bible, how it fits together and ultimately how everything in the Bible points to Jesus.

One congregation who have used the material is Belmont Presbyterian Church in East Belfast. One participant said **'The Bible now makes more sense to me. Being a visual learner the time line really struck a chord with me . It was like a light being turned on.'**

The material can be used in any setting – perhaps in small groups or as follow up after an Alpha or Christianity Explored course.

Each set of DVD's costs £25 and Manuals cost £5 each. It is recommended that every participant has their own copy of the manual. These are available to buy from us in Bible House in Belfast.

Perhaps you have already taken part in a Bible Course in your church – please get in touch. We would love to know what you thought of it.



Rev Nigel Craig (Belmont Presbyterian Church) with members of the congregation who were part of a group who completed the Bible Course.

# 'Right from the horse's mouth!'

Every year we visit groups and churches to share about our work. This is one of the best parts of our roles as we get to share about our work, meet people who support us and often enjoy great hospitality.

We would love to speak in your church to share what is happening, encourage you as supporters and keep you up to date with our work to 'Reach everyone with God's Word'.

Hearing from one of our team brings the stories 'right from the horse's mouth' and will bring what you read in Word at Work, online or through our prayer material to life. Get in touch with the office to book a speaker for your organisation or church.

# Daily Bible Reading Guide

New 2020 version available now from the office.



## The Gathering - Annual Supporter's Evening.

On Friday 8th November 2019 we had our first annual supporter's meeting in High Kirk Presbyterian Church, Ballymena.

We had a wonderful evening hearing about our new BIBLE 2020 project for Northern Ireland and from the General Secretary of the Bible Society of Uganda, Simon Peter Mukhama, about his work.

Bible Society NI's General Secretary, Catherine Little, started off the night sharing about Bible access statistics around the world and what the United Bible Societies are doing to "Reach everyone with God's Word".

Andrew, our Community Partnerships Manager, then spoke to us about our new app, BIBLE 2020, and how you can get involved in this Scripture engagement project in Northern Ireland. **If you don't have a smart phone or tablet, we will be publishing the daily readings in Word at Work throughout the year** (turn to page 12).

We then had a time to pray with each other about what we had just heard and sang some praise.

Simon Peter Makhama shared with us about his work in Uganda and the projects the Bible Society are part of there. He emphasised that while the Bible is available in Uganda in English it is so important for someone to have a translation in the language of their heart.

**"When people read the Bible in English, the words go to their head, but when they read it in their own language, it goes to their heart,"** he said, **"We want to see a Bible in every hotel, hospital, home, hand and heart."**



Simon Peter shares about the work in Uganda.



Simon Peter presents BSNI with a certificate of thanks on behalf of the Bible Society of Uganda.

Simon Peter also shared about their work translating and distributing the Bible in Braille in Uganda and the joy it has brought to the whole church community. Now the blind are able to read the Bible for themselves and take Scripture readings from the front of church! This is a project that we have supported here in Northern Ireland.

We finished the evening with tea, coffee and tray bakes

and plenty of chat about what we had just heard.

Thank you to all who made this evening possible and to all those who came along. We appreciate your continued prayerful and financial support; it was a blessing to meet and chat with many of you.

**We look forward to seeing you all at next year's event on Friday 6th of November!**



**It was great to get to meet some of our supporters!**



**Thanks to the catering team at High Kirk Presbyterian for a lovely supper.**



**(L – R) Leslie and Georgina came from Glengormley and Callum from Belfast.**



**(L – R) Oliver and Valerie came from Londonderry and Marjorie came from Broughshane.**



**(L – R) Helen, Marie, Edith and Robin came from Newcastle, Templepatrick and Islandmagee.**



**(L – R) Cathy and Stephen came from Lisburn and Catherine came from Glenraig.**

# Simon Peter's Visit to Northern Ireland

Simon Peter Mukhama, General Secretary of the Bible Society of Uganda, joined us on 8th November for The Gathering and spent a short time in Northern Ireland with us. His plane was slightly delayed, but he made it to Ballymena just in time to share with us about the Bible Society of Uganda.

This was his first time in Northern Ireland, so we wanted to make the most of his short stay.

After a night in Ballymena, one of our board members, Tommy Stewart, took Simon Peter to visit Stephen Crawford from Coaching for Christ. They shared about different projects both organisations are involved in and how they could work together in Uganda. Tommy and Simon Peter then headed up to Portstewart for a coffee and chat about mission work with Dolway Johnston from Fields of Life.

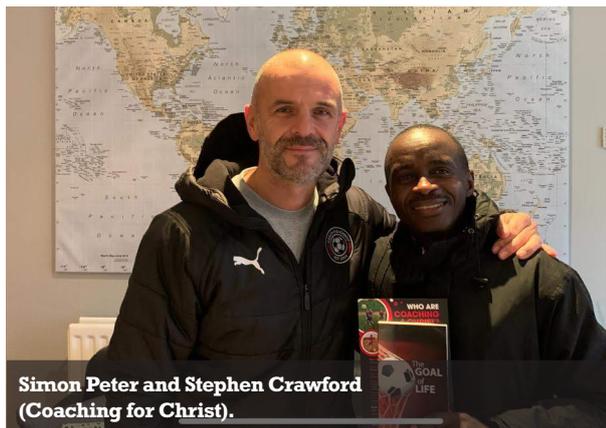
After lunch, and keen to show Simon Peter the beauty of the Northern Irish coast, they visited the Giant's Causeway, joined by Keren. Our infamous Northern Irish weather did not disappoint! Our wet, cold and slightly muddy adventure was very far from the warmth of Uganda, but we managed to get the photos to prove we were there!

Simon Peter spent the night in Londonderry with Keren and her parents, Pastor Oliver Roebuck and his wife Valerie. On Sunday morning Simon Peter and Keren spoke at Richill Park Baptist, Londonderry, about the work of the Bible Society, both in Northern Ireland and in Uganda, including the Braille Bibles project we support in Uganda. He shared on "A Kingdom

Life" and challenged the congregation to "Live like God's Kingdom people".

The Roebucks took Simon Peter for a walk around the city walls in the afternoon. It was even colder on the Peace Bridge than it was at the Giant's Causeway! We returned to Richill Park Baptist for the evening service and then headed home for a relaxing night chatting in front of a cosy electric fire.

On Monday morning we said a sad goodbye to Simon Peter, but we look forward to seeing him again soon. He promises next time he visits he will bring his wife, Ruth, so that he won't be "Ruth-less"! He made it safely home and wanted us to pass on his thanks to everyone for their hospitality throughout his stay.



**Simon Peter and Stephen Crawford (Coaching for Christ).**



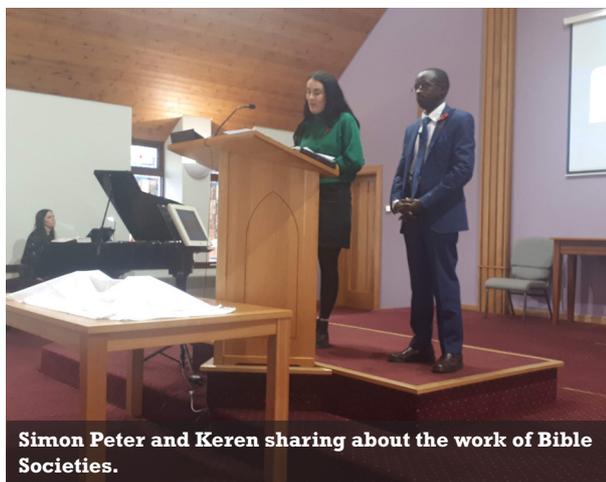
**Simon Peter and Dolway Johnston (Fields of Life).**



**Simon Peter and Tommy at the Giant's Causeway.**



**Simon Peter and Keren on the Peace Bridge, Londonderry.**



**Simon Peter and Keren sharing about the work of Bible Societies.**

# P@W!

## Prayer at Work

### PULL OUT AND KEEP PRAYER GUIDE

SPRING 2020

Every Bible Society around the world values your prayers. They love to share good news with our supporters and to rejoice in prayer with them; and they are comforted that when they are in need, they have a global network praying for them. Thank you for supporting the work of the United Bible Societies through prayer.

**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.

**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.

#### FEB 2-8

**Albania** Please pray for the translation projects in this country. The first complete Bible in Albanian will be launched later this year. Pray for the New Testament translation into Albanian Gheg and for provision of the financial support for the Septuagint translation. Pray for GS Altin Hysi and his team of staff and volunteers as they seek to carry out these projects.

**Macedonia** Praise God for the achievements made in spreading the Word of God in this country. Please pray that the local Bible Society is able to teach Bible principles to different generations, especially young people and children. Pray also that publishing projects may attract more and more people to the Bible message. Remember GS Petko Zlateski and the team in Macedonia.

**Bulgaria** Thank God for 150 years of the Tsarigrad Bible translation. Pray for wisdom for those carrying out the revision of the Bulgarian New Testament. Pray for the work in Bulgaria amongst those in society who are often left behind – orphans, those with disabilities, prisoners and refugees. The work here is led by GS Radoslav Apostolov.

#### FEB 9-15

**Greece** Praise God for the achievements made in spreading the Word of God in this country. Praise God for all they have been able to accomplish despite the current financial crisis. Thank God that they can celebrate 200 years since the Ionian Bible Society was founded. Remember GS Michail Chatziyiannis as he leads the team here.

**Italy** Pray for Chairman of the Board Eric Noffke, staff and volunteers as they reach out to the people of Italy. Pray for strengthened relationships with churches and other Christian organisations in this country. Ask God that He would move amongst the Italian people and that many would come to faith in Jesus Christ.

**Malta** Pray for the core presence of the Bible Society in Malta. Ask God that people would be able to access the Bible in whatever format they need. Pray for GS Paul Agius and the Board as they continue to work in this ministry in Malta. Ask God to give them wisdom and guidance in all the work they are carrying out.

#### FEB 16-22

**Zambia** Pray for Zambia's many translation projects as they work to translate the Bible into many different languages. Pray especially for the translations of the Nyanja New Testament and the Tonga study Bible. Pray that people would be drawn to God through reading the Gospel in their heart language. Pray for Abraham Chikasa as he oversees the many projects being carried out in Zambia.

**Angola** Pray for the Bible Society in Angola, that they might overcome the challenges in management, Bible translation, leadership, distribution and outreach. Pray also for the construction of Bible Society's new headquarters. Remember the wider church in Angola, as well as the spiritual growth of the Angolan people. GS Beatriz Hupa leads the team here.

**Mozambique** Thank God for the launch of the Gospels and Acts in Chuvabu. Pray also for the Bible translation projects into Xirhonga, Emakhuwa, Xichangana, Makhuwa-Marrevone, Cibalke, and Manyawa. Praise God for the Peace Agreement between the government and the Renamo, a militant organisation. Pray that this peace will continue in the future.

#### FEB 23-29

**Arab Israeli** Pray for GS Dina Katanacho and her staff and volunteers as they carry out the work of the Bible Society. Pray for the ministry of the Bible Society here and that they would make good connections with churches and other Christian organisations. Pray for their work amongst women, children and young people, especially their new Bible app for children.

**Israel** Pray for the work of the Bible Society here in Bible distribution and engagement. Pray for the women's devotional material that they are working on and their interactive project based on the Gospel of John. The projects here are carried out by Executive Director Victor Kalisher and his team, pray that they would be strengthened and encouraged in their work.

**Palestine** Pray for the new strategy and structure that the Palestinian Bible Society will implement in 2020 to be "better focused" in their strategy. Ask for new engagement and partnership opportunities with the Palestinian church and society. Pray also for peace in Jerusalem and across this region. The work here is led by GS Nashat Filmon.

## Bible-a-Month Project February: Paraguay

The Paraguayan Bible Society travels along the river onboard El Amanecer, bringing supplies to meet the medical and educational needs of isolated people groups. They bring Scriptures for the people, and over the years churches have started to form. Currently, the focus of El Amanecer is to train up church leaders in these communities and provide the members with Bibles and literature so that they may grow in their faith and encourage other communities to do the same.

- Pray for the Hugua Chini, San Alfredo and Carayá Vuelta communities who the El Amanecer visits.
- Pray that the church leaders who receive training from those sailing on the El Amanecer will be blessed and that their congregations will benefit from this ministry.
- Pray that funding would be made available to the Paraguayan Bible Society so that they may continue this ministry.



£5 will help provide a New Testament and a child's Scripture portion to a family in the Hugua Chini community.

## MARCH 1-7

**Chile** Pray for the Chilean Church that has been affected by claims of abuse and corruption. Ask the Lord to guide church leaders with wisdom and dignity as they deal with these sensitive issues. Pray for the work of the Bible Society amongst older people, children and those with disabilities. Remember GS Francisco Errazu as he leads the team, and for his Board.

**Uruguay** Pray for the core presence of the Bible Society in Uruguay and for GS Samuel Duarte as he leads the work. Pray for their "New Horizons", "Live the Bible" projects and for the translation into Uruguayan Sign Language. Remember their work amongst children with the "Draw My Own Bible" and "Grow and Learn" projects, as they reach out to children in their communities.

**Argentina** Pray for the "Inclusive Publications" project intended to allow everyone to have access to the Word by tearing down the barriers of disability. Pray for the four translation projects in progress and the development of new initiatives that will allow more people to interact with the Bible. The Bible Society here is led by GS Ruben Del Ré.

## MARCH 8-14

**Armenia** Praise God for the growth of the Armenian Bible Society's projects. Pray for their new projects aimed at raising awareness of the Bible and the introduction of the Audio Bible. Pray that they would be able to

engage more children with God's Word through providing teachers with their own Bibles. Remember the staff, volunteers and Board led by GS Yeznik Petrosyan.

**Georgia** The Bible Society in Georgia is led by Avtandil Guruli and his team. Pray for their Bible engagement projects as they develop study materials for adults and young people. Pray that their publishing and distribution projects may influence many people throughout the country. Pray for peace before and during the upcoming parliamentary elections in October 2020.

**Azerbaijan** Pray for the core presence of the Azerbaijan Bible Society, and for the book shop that they have just opened in the capital, Baku. Pray that their projects would receive enough financial support in 2020 and that they would have a big impact on their communities. Pray also for stability in Azerbaijan and for peace amongst the people. The work here is led by GS Rasim Khalilov.

## MARCH 15-21

**New Zealand** Pray for the collaborative project between the Asia Pacific Bible Societies and the local church. This is a Bible engagement project to help people stay rooted in their Christian faith in an increasingly secularised society. Praise God for the project so far and the impact it is already having. Pray for CEO Neels Janse Van Rensburg as he leads the team here.

**Australia** Pray for the translation work being carried out amongst Indigenous Peoples groups, particularly in the Pitjantjatjara and

Nyoongar languages. Please also pray for the work engaging young people with the Bible. Pray that through these projects people would be challenged and they would come to faith in Christ. The work in Australia is led by CEO Grant Thomson.

**South Pacific** GS Geoffrey Miller leads the work in the South Pacific Bible Societies. Pray for the projects across the various West Pacific countries in Bible engagement and distribution. Pray for the translation projects in the many languages spoken in this part of the world. Thank God for the MagiMagi programme which helps to show the importance of the Bible alongside the local culture.

## MARCH 22-28

**Austria** Pray for the staff and volunteers as they provide Bibles to prison inmates and refugees in their mother tongues. Pray for those who have left their homes because of persecution, that they would be comforted by God in this time. Pray also for the young people visiting the Bible Centre in Vienna. The work here is led by GS Jutta Henner.

**Switzerland** Pray for the work amongst refugees, prison inmates, the elderly and those experiencing injustice. Pray for their translation projects and that these would benefit all who speak these languages. Pray also for the Bible Society staff, members and supporters for their dedicated work and support. The work here is led by CEO Eva Thomi.

**Germany** The German Bible Society is led by GS Christoph Rösel and his team. Pray for

the final preparations for the publication of the Basic Bible German before its launch in 2021. Ask that German churches and donors will continue to fund global Bible projects. Pray also for the growing interest in the Bible and the work carried out by the German Bible Society promoting God's Word.

## MAR 29 - APR 4

**Pakistan** Pray for the new General Secretary, Rev. Azhar Mustaq. Pray for new translation and publishing of the Bible. Ask that literacy programmes amongst women and children would have a positive impact and that they would see that they are valued by God. Pray for safety of staff and volunteers as they carry out this work.

**India** Pray for the launch of BIBLE 2020 in India and that people would engage with the Bible through this App. Pray for the programmes amongst children and young people. The Bible Society of India hopes to impact over 15,000 children and young people in 2020. Pray also for the team led by GS Mani Chacko.

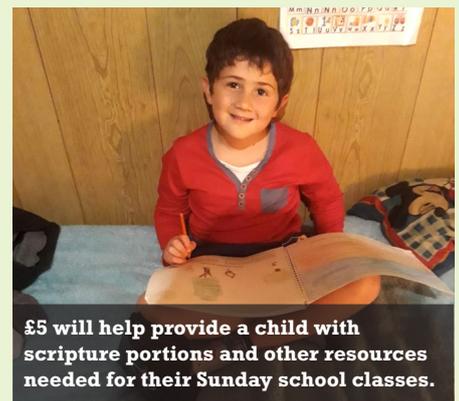
**Nepal** The work in Nepal is led by CEO Tej Bahadur Jirel. Please pray for the translation, production and distribution of the Nepali Bible and related materials for Nepali speakers. Ask for the Scripture engagement programmes, especially those developed through holistic ministries. Pray for enough funding so that the Nepal Bible Society may be able to carry out their projects.

See our website for more prayer resources: [www.biblesocietyni.co.uk](http://www.biblesocietyni.co.uk)

## Bible-a-Month Project March: Uruguay

The poverty rate in Uruguay is very high. This forces many children to have to work to support their family, missing out on schooling. Sunday School teachers often play the role of educator, caregiver and counsellor. The "Drawing My Own Bible" project, organised by the Bible Society in Uruguay, allows children who have little or no literacy to listen to Bible stories and learn about what they've heard through drawing. Training is also provided to Sunday School teachers so that they can properly help the children.

- Pray for teachers and leaders working with these children.
- Pray for these children living in difficult situations. Ask God to comfort them and to protect them; pray that they would see church as a place of refuge and hope.
- Pray that the social and economic factors that force children into these difficult situations would improve. Pray that the church would have a positive impact on this situation.



£5 will help provide a child with scripture portions and other resources needed for their Sunday school classes.

APRIL 5 - 11

**Ukraine** Pray for the work in Ukraine to reach people who are victims of conflict. To aid these people the Ukrainian Bible Society runs various projects among different people including military personnel and chaplains. Pray for their work amongst disadvantaged children and families and that they would be positively impacted by the Gospel. The Ukrainian Bible Society is led by GS Oleksandr Babychuk.

**Belarus** CEO Georgij Georgievich Melnikov is in charge of the Bible Society in the Republic of Belarus. Please pray for their many projects to help bring children the Gospel including the "Sowing Together", "Light of the Bible" and "Draw Your Own Bible" programmes. Pray that many children and their families would be impacted by these projects.

**Russia** The Russian Bible Society's warehouse will be torn down this year as it is located on the route of a new highway being built. Please pray that the City Council grant them a similar piece of land to build a new warehouse and they can therefore continue to provide Scripture to those who need it. Pray for Anatoly Rudenko as he leads the team in Russia.

APRIL 12 - 18

**Belgium (French)** Thank God for everything the Belgian Bible Society (French) was able to achieve last year in support of the Bible Cause. Please ask that the projects implemented last year may continue to stimulate the population's interest in the Bible and that many will come to a saving faith in Christ. The work here is led by GS Vincent Beckers and his team.

**Belgium (Flemish)** Pray for the staff, volunteers and Board working to promote the message of the Bible in Flemish speaking Belgium. Pray that many people will be interested in learning more about the Bible. Thank God for the strong connection with the Bible Society in the Netherlands and ask that God would continue to bless this partnership.

**Netherlands** Pray for the new Bible for Teenagers, that the powerful message may touch young people's hearts. Thank God that they are able to support digital Bible projects in the Netherlands, the Dutch-speaking region of Belgium and throughout the world, as well as for every supporter who makes this possible through praying and donating. The team in the Netherlands is led by GS Rieuwerd Buitenwerf.

APRIL 19 - 25

**Ghana** Pray for the Bible translation projects in progress including the Awutu – Efutu, Abron, and Ghanaian Sign Language translation. Pray for the preparations for the World Assembly that will be hosted by Bible Society of Ghana in 2022. Pray also for Bible Society's projects as it expands its activities to other regions of the country. The team here is led by GS Rev Dr Enoch Aryee-Atta.

**Togo** Pray for GS Estelle Akouegnon and her team of staff and volunteers. Please pray for the many translation projects going on in this country, including the Lama, Kabiye and Akposso translations. Pray also for their work among youth, distributing Bibles, Trauma Healing programmes and the Good Samaritan project which works with those affected by HIV and AIDs.

**Benin** Kancou Ogou is the GS of Benin. Pray for the translation of the Bible into Gun and for the literacy programme that is running alongside this. Pray for the first translation of the Bible into Aja and that God would use this project to reach many unsaved people with the Gospel. Pray for all the translators, that they would be strengthened and encouraged.

APRIL 26 - MAY 2

**Bolivia** Please ask the Lord to give the staff and volunteers, led by GS Fanny Cossio, wisdom to bring God's Word to the most distant parts of Bolivia. Pray for the Bolivian authorities, that God would guide them to rule the country according to His will. Pray also for the programmes working to share the Gospel with children, teenagers and women who are victims of violence.

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

**Brazil** Praise God for the blessed year they have had. Pray that the Brazilian Sign Language Bible project would be beneficial and that these people can be reached with the Gospel. Pray that they will have the human and financial resources needed to maintain and expand the Bible work in Brazil to reach all audiences, especially at-risk peoples. The work here is led by Executive Director Erni Seibert.

Did you know that you can see this prayer material on our website at [www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/get-involved/pray/](http://www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/get-involved/pray/)

## Bible-a-Month Project April: Lebanon

Ongoing war has meant that many people have had to flee their home country and are now refugees in Lebanon. Families are living in refugee camps, often without access to basic necessities.

The Bible Society in Lebanon is working with the local church to reach out to these people. They provide families with care packages which include food, medicine and supplies. The packages also include a children's Bible, Gospel portion, New Testament and colouring book. For many people, this may be their first experience of Christianity and

the Bible. These care packages are providing people with hope for the future.

- Pray that each copy of scriptures being distributed will bring joy and encouragement to the refugee families. Pray that they will know the peace that God provides.
- Pray that many will take the Bible back to their homes and share the message with others, and that many will come to Christ.
- Pray for the conflict which has displaced these refugees. Pray that God will use it for His glory and that He will bring an end to it.



## MAY 3-9

**Botswana** GS Ofentse Maruping leads the team in Botswana. Pray for their work in the army and reaching soldiers with the Gospel. Pray also for the translation projects that are ongoing, including the Shekgalagari translation and the literacy project that runs alongside it. Ask God that He will move in Botswana and that many people will be drawn to the Gospel message.

**Zimbabwe** There are 16 official languages in Zimbabwe and, so far, there are just three full Bibles translated. Please pray for funding and the translation into all of these languages so that every Zimbabwean can read the Bible in their own language. Pray also for the recovery of this nation's economy. The work in Zimbabwe is led by GS Chipso Maringe.

**Namibia** Praise God for the opportunities to translate the Bible into many Namibian languages, including Oshikwanyama and Oshindonga. Pray that many people would be reached by these translations. Pray also for the Bible Storytelling project and the Oral Bible Translation for the Ovahimba. Pray for the team of staff and volunteers here led by CEO Bernie Van Der Walt.

## MAY 10-16

**Algeria** Pressure from the government in Algeria is increasing against Churches and the Bible Society. Ask God that He would move in the lives of the leaders of the country. Pray for the local churches and Christians, ask for strength and guidance, whatever their situation. Please pray for the situation in Algeria and for safety for the team, led by Executive Secretary Ali Khidri.

**Morocco** Pray for the Moroccan Arabic translation of the Bible and for the many people it will reach with its message. Pray for their many other projects including, print and digital publishing, distribution to churches and migrants, helping those who are seeking the Gospel and discipleship of new believers. Pray for the staff and volunteer team.

**Burkina Faso** Pray for the renewal of members of their Board of Directors. Pray also for all their translation projects into Bissa, Lyélé, and Birifor and the publication of the Bible in Dagara and San. Pray for the security situation, which has been suffering with increasingly more frequent and lethal terrorist attacks. Pray especially for the protection of the Bible Society staff, led by GS Dramane Yankiné.

## MAY 17-23

**Mali** Praise God for the achievements made in spreading the Word of God in this country. Please pray for their FCBH projects and various translation projects into different dialects. Pray for their projects which promote Bible engagement among all age groups and for Executive Secretary Jacques Dembélé as he leads the work in Mali.

**Rwanda** Pray for the Trauma Healing programme and the work among young people. Pray for the Bible translations they are working to complete including the Rwandan Sign Language Bible. Pray also for the literacy programmes and that people would be touched by the Gospel through reading it for themselves. The work here is led by GS Therese Mukamakuza.

**Uganda** Please pray for the Bible House renovation project that is being undertaken this year. Ask that the members and donors of the Bible Society of Uganda will support this project until its completion. Pray also for the successful and timely completion of our translation projects in progress, including the Bible into Braille. The Bible Society of Uganda is led by GS Simon Peter Mukhama.

## MAY 24-30

**Burundi** GS Marjorie Niyungeko is in charge of the Bible Society of Burundi. Thank God for improving the situation in this country and please pray for peace during the upcoming elections in Burundi scheduled for 2020. Ask God that the Trauma Healing projects in Burundi would be successful and that people would come to Christ through them.

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

**Papua New Guinea** Pray for the revision of the Bible translation in Tok Pisin, that God would guide the translators in their work. Pray for Bible engagement in Papua New Guinea, that people would be challenged by what they read and that many people would come to faith. Pray for the staff, volunteers and Board that carry out the work of the Bible Society in this county.

## Bible-a-month Project May: Albania

In 2019 the Bible Society of Albania finished translating the full Bible into Albanian. For the first time Christians in Albania will have the complete Bible in a language that they fully understand.

Now they have the translation, they are facing the next hurdle: printing and launching the Bible. Preparations are underway for the translation to be printed and it will also be made available for everyone to be used in two Bible apps, the Bibla Shqip and Youversion apps.

In 2020 the Bible Society of Albania hopes to host a launch event to celebrate the new Bible translation.

- Pray that the financial support will be made available to print as many Albanian Bibles as needed.
- Pray that the new translation will be well accepted and widely used by the Christian community in Albania.
- Pray that the launching of the Bible and the Bible engagement events will be useful for the Churches to help people rediscover the Word of God.



£5 will help cover the cost of printing one Albanian Bible.



# 爱德印刷两亿册圣经庆祝活动

The Celebration For The Completion Of The 200 Million<sup>th</sup> Bible By Amity

百年和合  
Centenary Of The Union



Representatives from UBS at the celebration for the completion of the 200 millionth Bible by Amity.

## A Visit to China

In November 2019 Catherine visited mainland China as part of a delegation of leaders from the United Bible Societies.

The main reason for this visit was to celebrate the printing of 200 million Bibles by Amity Printing Company in Nanjing. Amity Press was set up in 1987 with help from Bible Societies around the world and has since gone on to print Bibles for China and for the rest of the world.

More than 85 million Bibles have been printed for use in China as of October 2019 - these include Bibles in 11 different ethnic languages. In addition, Bibles have been printed for over 140 different countries and regions around the world. Amity Printing Company represents just what can be achieved when we work together collaboratively.

There is growth happening with the Christian Church in China, particularly in the big cities on the East coast of the country. There are approximately 46 million Christians in China, with about 60% of them living in rural areas. Christians make up a small percentage of the total population of China (more than 1.4 billion people in 2019). During the Cultural Revolution in China (between 1966 and 1976) the Christian

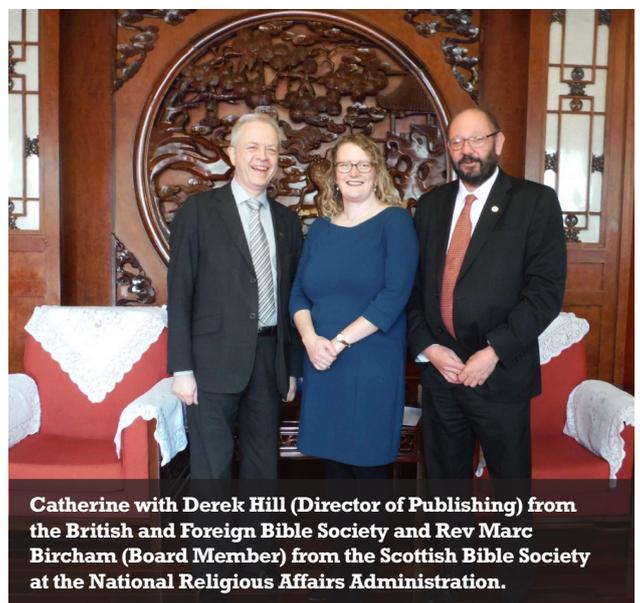
Church could not meet; the Bible was a banned book. Yet today Bibles are printed in China for all over the world in more than 200 different languages.

During the visit Catherine also was part of meetings with Church leaders. In Shanghai the group met with the China Christian Council / Three-Self Patriotic Movement which represents the Protestant Church in China. In Beijing, the group met with Bishops from the China Catholic Church and also members of the National Religious Affairs Administration section of the Chinese government. These meetings were useful to gain a better understanding of the situation for Christians in China.

All of these activities were useful in maintaining strong partnerships, friendships and working relationships between United Bible Societies and those in China. The high emphasis placed on friendship and building rapport was evident throughout our time in China. The group received generous hospitality during their time in China.



Receiving our 'All Weather Friendship' Award at the 200 millionth Bible Celebrations at Amity Printing Company.



Catherine with Derek Hill (Director of Publishing) from the British and Foreign Bible Society and Rev Marc Bircham (Board Member) from the Scottish Bible Society at the National Religious Affairs Administration.

# Bible 2020 Reading Plan

We are so excited that BIBLE 2020; a Bible engagement App for smartphones and tablets, is now live!

Thousands of Christians and Churches in Northern Ireland and all across the world have been playing their part reading the Bible aloud everywhere, every day, declaring words of hope, life and purpose to the world around them. And many more will join us throughout the year; God is on the move!

As a team we want to thank you for your involvement and encourage you to keep reading, watching and sharing God's Word with those around you.

**If you're not already involved with BIBLE 2020 please join with us. You can do that today in three easy steps:**

1. **REGISTER** yourself and your church on our website or by giving our office a call.

2. **DOWNLOAD** the BIBLE 2020 App on the App Store

or Google Play today or cut out this plan and put it in the front of your Bible.

3. **BEGIN** reading, speaking and sharing the Bible throughout 2020 from today!

God wants to use you and all of us to make Him known! Will you play your part and read His Word aloud everywhere, everyday in 2020?

**Don't have a smartphone? Don't worry!** The reading plan for January-May is available on this page, for you to follow along and read out loud with us, and on our website: [www.biblesocietyyni.co.uk](http://www.biblesocietyyni.co.uk) - why not share it with others in your church?

And if you're using the App, why not use the hashtag **#Bible2020NI** on social media so we can see your videos?



## January

- 1 - John 1:1-5
- 2 - Genesis 1:1-4
- 3 - Psalm 19:1-4
- 4 - Psalm 8:1-9
- 5 - Psalm 24:1-2
- 6 - Psalm 33:6-9
- 7 - Job 9:4-8
- 8 - Job 38:25-28
- 9 - Isaiah 40:25-26
- 10 - Isaiah 45:8
- 11 - Psalm 93:1-5
- 12 - Psalm 65:8
- 13 - Psalm 65:9-13
- 14 - Psalm 104:5-9
- 15 - Psalm 104:13-15
- 16 - Psalm 148:1-6
- 17 - Psalm 113:3-9
- 18 - 1 Chronicles 16:23-27
- 19 - Psalm 148:7-13
- 20 - Nehemiah 9:6
- 21 - Job 5:9-16
- 22 - Isaiah 46:9-10
- 23 - Jeremiah 10:6-7
- 24 - Deuteronomy 4:37-39
- 25 - Acts 17:24-27
- 26 - Psalm 139:14-16
- 27 - Psalm 145:3-6
- 28 - Psalm 145:8-13
- 29 - Psalm 145:14-18
- 30 - Psalm 86:15-17
- 31 - Micah 7:18-20

## February

- 1 - Deuteronomy 33:26-28
- 2 - Isaiah 6:1-3
- 3 - Deuteronomy 7:9
- 4 - Ezekiel 34:15-16
- 5 - John 1:16-18
- 6 - 1 John 4:13-16
- 7 - 1 John 1:5-7
- 8 - James 1:16-17
- 9 - Psalm 27:4-5
- 10 - John 3:16-17
- 11 - Psalm 36:6-10
- 12 - Song of Songs 2:4
- 13 - Psalm 136:1-3
- 14 - Lamentations 3:22-24
- 15 - Jeremiah 31:3-4
- 16 - Ephesians 2:4-5
- 17 - 1 John 4:7-12
- 18 - Romans 5:6-8
- 19 - John 13:34-35
- 20 - Romans 8:38-39
- 21 - 1 John 3:1-2
- 22 - 1 John 3:16-18
- 23 - Leviticus 19:18
- 24 - Ephesians 5:1-2
- 25 - 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
- 26 - Romans 13:8-10
- 27 - Matthew 5:43-45
- 28 - Matthew 22:34-40
- 29 - Jude 20-21

## March

- 1 - Colossians 1:15-20
- 2 - John 1:14
- 3 - Hebrews 1:1-3
- 4 - 1 John 1:1-3
- 5 - 2 Peter 1:16-18
- 6 - Mark 1:9-11
- 7 - Malachi 3:1
- 8 - Luke 4:16-21
- 9 - Mark 1:29-34
- 10 - Luke 5:4-11
- 11 - Luke 5:29-32
- 12 - John 8:12
- 13 - John 6:35
- 14 - John 10:7-10
- 15 - John 10:14-17
- 16 - Luke 9:18-22
- 17 - Matthew 17:1-5
- 18 - Hebrews 4:14-16
- 19 - Hebrews 12:1-3
- 20 - Philippians 2:5-11
- 21 - Psalm 97:1-6
- 22 - Psalm 95:1-6
- 23 - Psalm 72:11-14
- 24 - Mark 1:14-15
- 25 - Matthew 4:23-24
- 26 - Matthew 5:3-10
- 27 - Matthew 13:44-46
- 28 - Mark 10:23-27
- 29 - Luke 18:15-17
- 30 - Mark 12:28-34
- 31 - John 3:1-3

## April

- 1 - Luke 23:38-43
- 2 - Revelation 1:4-6
- 3 - Revelation 11:15
- 4 - Matthew 21:6-10
- 5 - Matthew 26:26-30
- 6 - Matthew 26:36-39
- 7 - Matthew 26:47-50
- 8 - Luke 23:13-21
- 9 - Mark 15:33-37
- 10 - Matthew 27:57-61
- 11 - Matthew 28:1-6
- 12 - Luke 24:9-12
- 13 - John 20:19-20
- 14 - John 20:26-29
- 15 - 1 Corinthians 15:3-6
- 16 - Isaiah 53:1-13
- 17 - 1 Corinthians 1:18
- 18 - Isaiah 53:4-6
- 19 - Colossians 2:13-15
- 20 - Isaiah 53:7-8
- 21 - 1 Peter 2:23-25
- 22 - Romans 4:25
- 23 - Isaiah 53:10
- 24 - Isaiah 1:18
- 25 - Genesis 3:1
- 26 - Genesis 3:13
- 27 - Isaiah 59:1-4
- 28 - Jeremiah 5:20-25
- 29 - Isaiah 64:6-8
- 30 - Obadiah 15

## May

- 1 - Jeremiah 17:9-10
- 2 - Jeremiah 31:33-34
- 3 - Joel 2:12-13
- 4 - Hosea 14:2-3
- 5 - Psalm 51:1-4
- 6 - Daniel 9:17-19
- 7 - Ezekiel 36:24-28
- 8 - Titus 3:3-7
- 9 - Romans 3:21-24
- 10 - Romans 8:1-2
- 11 - 2 Corinthians 5:17-20
- 12 - Hebrews 10:19-23
- 13 - 2 Peter 3:8-9
- 14 - Jonah 1:1-6
- 15 - Jonah 1:11-17
- 16 - Jonah 2:7-10
- 17 - Jonah 3:1-5
- 18 - Jonah 4:6-10
- 19 - Psalm 23:1-6
- 20 - Psalm 98:4-7
- 21 - Psalm 66:1-5
- 22 - Psalm 33:1-5
- 23 - Psalm 96:7-10
- 24 - Psalm 47:6-9
- 25 - Psalm 105:1-4
- 26 - Psalm 100:1-5
- 27 - Psalm 103:1-6
- 28 - Psalm 65:1-5
- 29 - Psalm 150:1-6
- 30 - Zechariah 4:6
- 31 - John 15:26-27

# Draw My Own Bible Competition

Bible Society NI are excited to announce our first ever 'Draw My Own Bible' Competition, open to all children of Primary School age, teens and adults!

From starry skies to stunning sunsets; from wildflower fields to deep blue seas; from the millions of animal species to you and me, Creation reveals our God is the master artist.

The Bible, too, is full of action-packed stories, take-your-breath-away moments, and the incredible words of God which show us His design in all things.

And we want to celebrate our God and His Word by inviting you to make some art of your very own!

Colouring pages are available to download from our website for each Primary School age category (P1-P2; P3-P5; P6-P7) whilst for teens and adults we're inviting you to send us your art based on a Bible verse or passage that inspires you.

## To enter our 'Draw My Own Bible' competition:

- visit our website and download the appropriate colouring page/frame template;

- colour, draw, paint or illustrate your picture;
- pop your art in the post (with a note on the back if you're a teen or adult telling us the verse/passage you've chosen and why it inspires you) to return to us by **Friday 20th March**.

The winner in each **Primary School category** will win a copy of The Jesus Storybook Bible.

The winner in the **teen's category** will win a Good News Bible: The Youth Edition.

The winner in the **adult's category** will win the choice of **an NIV Journaling or an NIV Illustrated Bible**.

It's time to break out the crayons, pencils, paints and get creative!



# Spring Appeal

## Empowering Slum Dwellers through the Word of God

There are over 45 thousand slums across India.

People often travel to cities to find work or education and end up having to settle in slums. These are dirty, poverty-stricken places which are commonly used as dumps for the rest of the city's rubbish.

A census taken in 2011 indicated that 1 in every 6 people in India live in slums in an unsanitary condition that is 'unfit for human habitation'. Most homes do not have indoor toilets and clean drinking water is a rare commodity. Those who inhabit these areas often comb the rubbish brought from other parts of the city, looking for things they can sell. It is a degrading way of life. The people living in slums are poor and have no way out of their situation, they lack basic necessities, but most importantly they lack the hope of the Gospel.

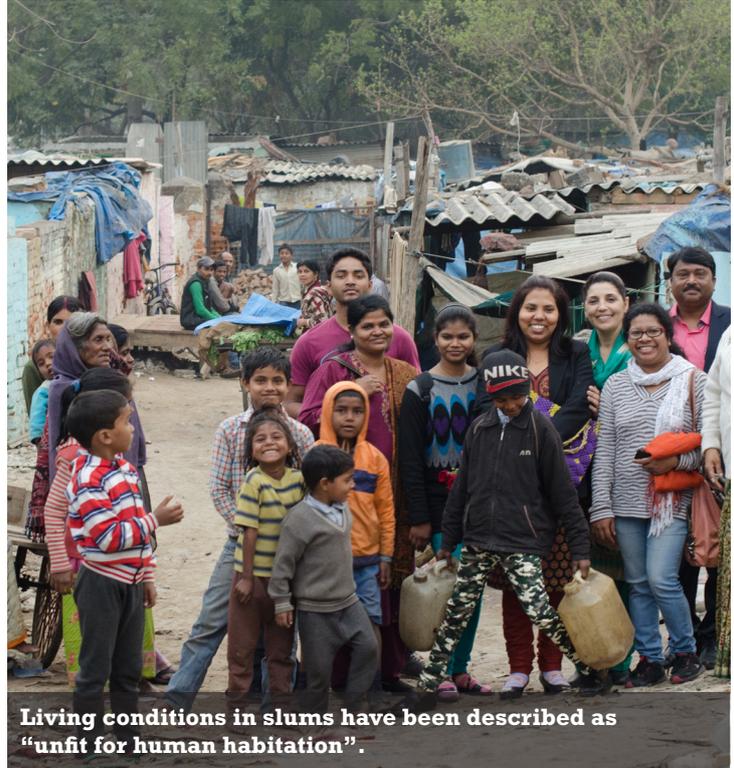
### Bringing Hope...

The Bible Society of India is working to reach these slum dwellers with the hope of the Bible. In response to the need of those living in slums, this project was created to empower individuals with God's Word. Staff and volunteers work with people in slums in 6 cities across the country, including Bangalore, Bombay and Dehli. Their goal is to reach 10,000 people over the next 2 years.

The Bible is the central focus of this project. The Bible Society of India knows that despite their lack of basic necessities the Gospel is the greatest need of these people. Their priority is to get the Bible into the hands of slum dwellers and to help them engage with God's living Word.

Small groups of 5 or 6 people meet daily to read the Bible aloud and discuss the passage. They talk about how it relates to their lives and how they can apply it to their everyday.

The Bible Society of India encourages every person they reach through this project to reach 5 others, encouraging a community of evangelism and creating a network of groups of Christian believers throughout the slums.



Living conditions in slums have been described as "unfit for human habitation".



The Bible Society of India is working to bring the hope of the Gospel to those who live in slums.

In addition to Biblical teaching those participating in this project are taught vocational skills, such as sewing, tailoring and beautician skills. Many of those involved receive a sewing machine from the Bible Society of India to help them establish an income. At the centre of all of this training is the Bible.

One of our colleagues involved with this project in India told us **“I feel strongly that these kind of practical life skills training along with Bible engagement will change a person’s life from one of rag collecting to a normal basic human life”**.

### Shining for Jesus in a dark place

We have heard wonderful stories of individuals encountering other Christians in the slums through this project and the positive impact this has had. Christians no longer feel alone as they have a small group of other believers to meet with and to study the Bible with every day. When individuals are given a Bible it becomes a very treasured possession which brings words of hope and encouragement and helps them to live life in all its fullness.

One of these believers is Ramesh. Ramesh lives with his wife and 3 daughters in Bangalore and works 2 jobs to support them. When the Bible Society of India volunteers came to his area he stood at a distance as they told people about Jesus Christ. After a while he began to read the Bible and pray with the group, and soon became a Christian. He was given a Bible and started to read it on his own. Ramesh studies the Bible every day; his favourite books are the Psalms and the Gospels.

When asked about his faith Ramesh explained, **“We are living as poor people, but I can shine for the Lord Jesus because of the Bible that is given to me. I love my Bible. I tell my story to others who are struggling.”**

#### Pray for the work with slum dwellers in India:

- Pray for the volunteers that the Bible Society of India sends out into the slums. Pray that they would be strengthened and encouraged in their work. Ask for safety as they travel through the slums.
- Pray that many would be impacted by this project and that they would see their greatest need is their need for Salvation.
- Pray for the projects that help to improve the quality of people’s living conditions. Pray that God would provide clean drinking water and sanitation facilities to those who need them.



**Pray that those who hear about the Gospel will respond to it.**

#### Donate towards this project:

- **£10** will provide **2 Bibles** to **2 slum dwellers** in India.
- **£20** will provide **10 pieces of Bible literature** to people who live in slums.
- **£45** will allow the Bible Society of India to **hire a venue** to run a **Scripture engagement course**.
- **£170** will provide a **sewing machine** to someone who participates in a sewing skill course.

If you would like to help us support the Bible Society in India with this work, you can donate by simply filling in the form that came with this magazine. You can also donate by visiting our website at [biblesocietyofindia.co.uk/project/india-empowering-slum-dwellers/](http://biblesocietyofindia.co.uk/project/india-empowering-slum-dwellers/) or scan this QR code:



**Your gift could change the lives of slum dwellers in India.**

# Bible-a-Month 2020

The Bible-a-Month calendar shares about 12 of the projects in 12 countries we support around the world. Each month it focuses on a different country, giving you information on the project, prayer points and the opportunity to give a gift of Scripture to someone in that country.

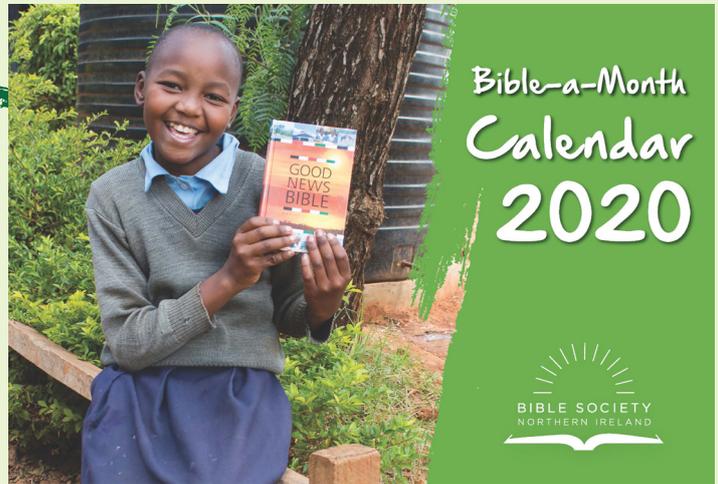
**A donation as small as £5 a month can give someone the life changing gift of a Bible.**

Here is what £5 could do through projects we are supporting this year in Bible-a-Month:

- In **January**, £5 will help provide an elderly Chilean person with a portion of large print Scripture in Chile.
- In **May**, £5 will cover the cost of printing one Albanian Bible.
- In **August**, £5 will provide 5 young people with a portion of Scripture each in El Salvador.
- In **October**, £5 will provide a Bible to someone who attends a "Good Samaritan" course in Rwanda.
- In **November**, £5 will provide someone with an Azerbaijani or Russian Bible in Azerbaijan.

**You can provide Scripture to people who desperately need it by donating to Bible-a-Month.**

**Fill out and return the cover sheet that came with your magazine and send it to the Bible Society NI office, or email [info@biblesocietyni.co.uk](mailto:info@biblesocietyni.co.uk) to request your 2020 calendar today.**



## Bible-a-Month Calendar 2020



An elderly lady receives a Bible from the "Light at Sunset" project.

### Chile

As Chile's life expectancy increases, so does the number of elderly people. Currently 10% of Chile's population is over 65 and this number is predicted to increase. Often men and women's spiritual needs aren't provided for at the end of their lives. The Chilean Bible Society saw this need and has been working to meet it.

The 'Light at Sunset' project was created to bring light to the lives of the elderly. It aims to provide comfort, care and community through God's Word to those in nursing homes. The Chilean Bible Society is facilitating groups of older people to meet, study the Bible and to see how loved they are by God.

£5 will help provide an elderly Chilean with a large print portion of the Bible.

Could you tell other people about the work of Bible-a-Month? Contact the office and we will send you as many copies of this calendar as you need!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
			New Year's Day			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Epiphany					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

"Do not cast me away when I am old; do not forsake me when my strength is gone."  
Psalm 71:9



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## Word at Work

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

SPRING 2020