



# Wow!

## Word at Work

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

SUMMER 2020



**REACHING THE ARAB ISRAELI  
COMMUNITY, PAGE 14-15**

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Cover photo shows young people studying the Bible as part of a programme run by the Arab Israeli Bible Society.



## Welcome

**Catherine Little**  
General Secretary, Bible Society NI

As I write this our country and our world are in the midst of a global pandemic. Coronavirus has taken many lives at this stage and is likely to take many more in the coming weeks.

Coronavirus has impacted everything around us. As a staff team we are all working from home, our office is closed. Even the contents of this magazine have had to change, much of what we had planned to share didn't happen or has had to be postponed. You might notice a few changes to our normal contents – enjoy the back page.

We are all now acutely aware of social distancing, queues to get into shops and the clear messages to 'Stay at home' and wash our hands. Suddenly our lives have become still and quiet. Church activities and much else that usually fills our diaries have stopped. Yet in the midst of this we are seeing creativity pop up all around, we are using technology to its best, we are staying in touch with people.

Our Bible Society colleagues around the world are facing this crisis in countries without support from their governments, in environments that are already difficult and challenging

and in places where diseases already ravage society. Bible Societies all over the world are encouraging people towards God's Word – casting out fear and anxiety with hope from the Bible.

On pages 14 and 15 you can read about the Arab Israeli Bible Society and their work to reach out with God's Word. You can also read about the Rev Peter Murray's visit to the Holy Land from earlier this year.

Bible 2020 has proven to be popular with downloads in over 115 countries around the world. How have you been involved? Have you been reading along with others globally through the Bible reading plan? Have you posted a video to the Bible 2020 wall?

At this time, we ask you to turn to God through His Word, we ask you to encourage others to do the same. We have resources that can help with his. Let's spread hope in this time of crisis – 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.' (Romans 15:13)

Every blessing and stay safe,

*Catherine Little*



Turn to page 14 to read more about the ongoing work in the Holy Land.

## Local News

### Roadshows and the Gathering 2020

This autumn Bible Society NI plan to host a series of Roadshows across Northern Ireland. We had some events planned for before the summer but as a result of Coronavirus they had to be postponed.

These events will be a mix of worship and an opportunity to hear stories from people whose lives have been directly impacted by our work within Northern Ireland, as well as having the space to spend time praying with us. These events will be subject to the government guidelines at the time.

We are so excited about these evenings and hope you will join us in Bangor, Ballymena,

Belfast, Dungannon, Fermanagh and Londonderry. Keep an eye out on our social media @biblesocietyni, our website as well as the Autumn Word at Work magazine, for all the information on dates, times and locations closer to the time.

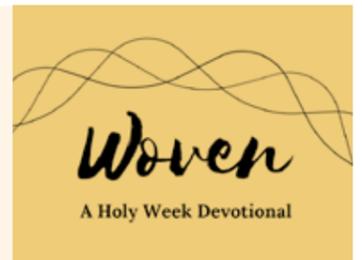
Our 2020 Gathering Event is planned for **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November** – keep the date free to join us at that event.

We'll see you on the road!



## Woven

“The chance to read and reflect on God's truth was priceless in these days. Not to mention, the imagery in the book was really beautiful.”



This year for Holy Week we created *Woven*, a short devotional book following Jesus during the teaching, trials, tears and triumph of the final week of his life from Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday.

The heart behind *Woven* is to encourage people to engage deeper with God's Word, place ourselves in this most remarkable of weeks and, above all, encounter the extravagant love, amazing grace and death defeating victory of our Saviour for our lives.

Copies of the book were available from our friends in *The Book Well* and *Faith Mission Bookshops* and many individuals and churches came directly to us as well for their own copies, via free online download or hard copy. We even had downloads from across Europe, Africa, North and South America as well as Australia!

Here are some of your testimonies about *Woven*:

- “This little book was such an amazing encouragement to me.” Joan
- “We used *Woven* with our church family over Holy Week – it was great!” Andy
- “The chance to read and reflect on God's truth was priceless in these days. Not to mention, the imagery in the book was really beautiful.” Claire.

If you used *Woven* get in touch and let us know your experience of the book. And if not, don't worry, *Woven* will be made available for Holy Week 2021 (28<sup>th</sup> March-4<sup>th</sup> April). Look out for how to order copies for you and your church in our Spring 2021 Word at Work.

# Visiting the Bible Societies in Israel



The Bible Society in Israel Bookshop.

In March retired Methodist minister Rev Peter Murray had the opportunity to visit the Bible Societies in Israel. We asked him to give us a brief summary of his trip and his experiences to share with you.

afraid to be doing that. "I am afraid," said Victor, "But I am more afraid that you will not hear the good news contained in the Psalms." With that the man took a copy!

The Bible Society in Israel is based near the Jaffa Gate in the centre of Jerusalem.

Victor Kalisher (General Secretary) met me there when I visited in early March. He and his team are producing Scripture-based materials for the 30,000 Messianic Jews in Israel and seeking to share

with others that the message of Yeshua (Jesus) is actually the true meaning of the Scriptures and the most Jewish thing to do is to believe in Him. Victor said, "The unity of the Jew and Gentile is a spiritual battle and we are trying to bridge 2000 years of bad history."

As well as producing materials for the local body of believers, Victor and his staff go out to evangelise on the streets. He told me that they have produced a copy of the Psalms with prophecies of the Messiah printed in red type. Offering a copy one day to a man at a bus stop the man asked him whether he was



General Secretary Dina Katanacho and Peter.

I also visited Dina Katanacho (General Secretary of the Arab Israeli Bible Society) at the premises of the Arab-Israeli Bible Society in Nazareth. Dina has worked here for 10 years and now has 6 staff and 7 volunteers helping her in a wide programme connecting with the 130,000 Arab-Israeli Christians. She said, "We want

our whole community to be washed with the Word of God." They aim to connect with 2,000 children each year through Bible Summer Camps, Bible competitions and quizzes and Bible distribution in churches and schools. The Magdalena Project aims to create a safe and stimulating environment for 4,000 women in the Nazareth area teaching them about healthy family life, marriage, parenting and women's rights.



Victor Kalisher with some of the Bible Society in Israel resources.

Peter visited Israel just before travel restrictions as a result of Coronavirus were put in place in the Holy Lands. Our colleagues in these Bible Societies and around the world are now working creatively online to reach out with the Bible in these difficult days.

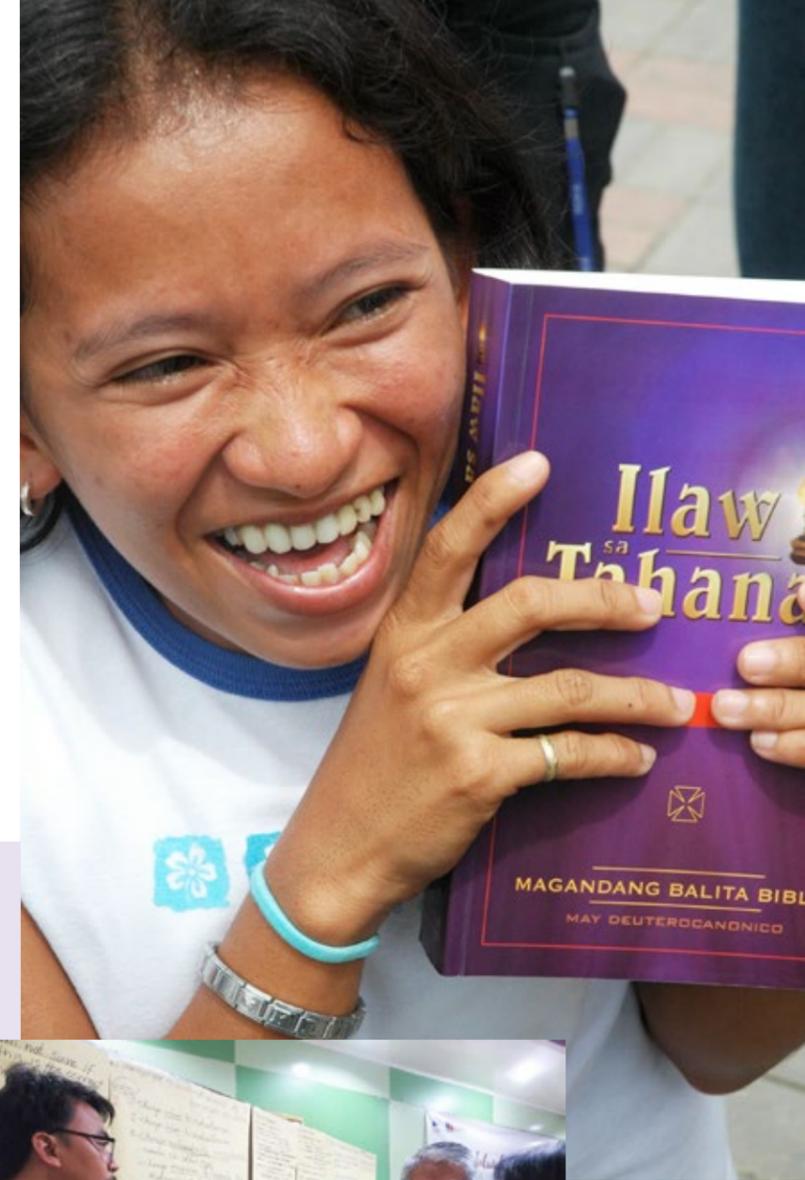
# What will your legacy be?

A gift in your will to Bible Society NI could impact thousands of people with the Bible for generations to come.

It is a sad fact of life that one day we will all pass away, but what will we leave behind when we are gone? And how can we use this for God's glory.

### Your gift to Bible Society NI could:

- + Help to translate the Bible into a language that is yet to have its own translation.
- + It could provide free Bibles to people around the world who are unable to afford one for themselves.
- + It could go towards a Faith Comes by Hearing project for those who cannot read the Bible.
- + It could provide literacy classes to people so that they can read God's Word for themselves.
- + Your gift could go towards bringing the Gospel to those with a hearing or visual impairment, through a translation of the Bible into their native Braille or Sign Language.



As of March 2020, there are no complete translations of the Bible in Sign Language. Could your gift be the one to help someone with a hearing impairment understand God's love for them?

At Bible Society NI we would be privileged to receive a gift in your will. To inspire you with how a gift in your will could have an impact for generations we have created a legacy pack, available from the office or online.



If you would like to know more about how you could leave a Biblical legacy after you're gone, contact the office on 02890326577 or send an email to [info@biblesocietyni.co.uk](mailto:info@biblesocietyni.co.uk) to receive your legacy pack.

Dina with a Daily Devotional book produced in the form of a purse bag for women.

# Draw My Own Bible Competition

In our last Word at Work magazine we launched our colouring competition – ‘Draw my own Bible’. We had a great response with almost 300 entries received!

We had entries from Sunday Schools, from Primary Schools, from Girls Brigades, as well as lots from other groups and individuals.

We were delighted with the response and were encouraged that so many got involved. We also know that there were some people whose plans to be involved were disrupted by Coronavirus and so their entries didn't make it to the office. We plan to have more opportunities to be creative in the future so watch out on our Social Media pages and website.

We saw a great display of talent in the entries received with every category having pictures submitted. Unfortunately, we won't be able to send out prizes until after we are through this current crisis, but we can announce the winners here through Word at Work.



Almost 300 entries!

## Winners



**P1/P2 winner:**  
Sophia,  
Dumhillery Primary School,  
Armagh



**P3/P4/P5 winner:**  
Sandy,  
Windsor Hill Primary School,  
Newry

**P6/P7 winner:**  
Emma,  
Derrylin,  
Co Fermanagh



**Teens winner:**  
Ruby, Annalong, Co Down



**Adult winner:**  
Rosemary,  
Comber, Co Down

Everywhere in our world today we are facing a new normal as we deal with the impact of Coronavirus. This global pandemic is like nothing we have seen before and it is causing challenge and disruption throughout the world. Every Bible Society is reacting as they have capacity and resource to – please pray.

### Terms & Abbreviations

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

### 31 MAY – 6 JUNE

**Indonesia** Praise God for 66 years of the Indonesian Bible Society in 2020. Pray for the implementation of literacy programmes in East Sumba, and their work translating the Bible into different native languages. Pray also for funding for the “Bible in Love” programme, which distributes Bibles to remote areas in Indonesia. The work here is led by GS Sigit Triyono.

**Cameroon** Pray for the FCBH and the Trauma Healing programmes in Cameroon. Pray that through these projects people would know the love of God. Pray for the many translation projects ongoing, including the Guidar, Podoko and Mafa languages. Pray for GS Luc Gnowa and his team as they carry out God's work reaching the people of Cameroon.

**Gabon** Translation of the Bible into Fang and Omyèmè, as well as several other languages. Ask that God would be with the translators and that through these translations many people would come to faith. Pray for the Faith Comes by Hearing project and all of the people who are able to hear the Gospel through this. Pray for Thierry Mabiala and his team.

### 7 – 13 JUNE

**Cambodia** Pray for the projects that are ongoing throughout 2020: the Children of the Word; Living Word for Everyone; and Literacy Programmes across Cambodia. Pray specifically for two of their translation projects: Khmer Study Bible and the revision of the Khmer Standard Version. Pray for the Board and staff of the Bible Society in Cambodia, led by Pisit Heng.

**Vietnam** Pray for Christians in Vietnam, a Buddhist majority country, and the challenges this creates. Pray for the ongoing translations of the Bible into minority languages. Pray for the projects reaching out to people with the Good News. Ask God that he will bless the work here. Pray for Vince Le who leads the team of staff and volunteers here.

**Thailand** Pray that God would provide writers to help complete the Thai study notes on the Minor Prophets. Pray for the translation of the book of Acts into Thai Sign Language. Pray for the distribution of Bibles to schools and that the resources needed for this project would be provided. The work here is led by GS Seree Lorgunpai and his team.

### 14 – 20 JUNE

**USA** Pray for increased Bible engagement in the United States and that people would grow in their Christian faiths. Pray for the development of the Faith and Liberty Discovery Centre and the translation of the Bible into American Sign Language. Pray for the upcoming presidential elections in 2020. The work here is led by Robert Briggs and his team.

**Canada** Pray that the Canadian Bible Society can make strong connections with churches and other Christian organisations across Canada. Pray that God would bless the work in Canada and that they will be able to reach more people with the Gospel in 2020. Pray for the staff, volunteers and board members, led by National Director Rupen Das.

**Mexico** Pray for the many Bible translations ongoing and the recording of audio Scriptures in native languages. Pray that through these translations many people would be reached with the Gospel and will come to a saving faith in Christ. Pray for GS Julio Splinker Martinez and his team as they oversee these projects in Mexico.

### 21 – 27 JUNE

**Hong Kong** Praise the Lord for the growth of Christians through the Revised Chinese Unified Version, as well as for the celebration of its centennial last year. Pray for the political situation in Hong Kong and that the Bible Society's projects would be able to continue. The work in Hong Kong is led by GS Tseun Yuen.

**China** Pray for the approval to print and distribute portions of the Scriptures amid stricter enforcement of religious policies in China. Pray also for continued good partnerships with churches in China. The work here is led by Director Wee Seng Kua and his team.

**Bangladesh** Please pray for the construction of the Bangladesh Bible Society's new headquarters. Pray for their work amongst children and young people throughout the country- ask that God would raise up a generation of Christians rooted in the Bible. Pray for their literacy work and the distribution of audio Bibles. GS Liton Mrong leads the work here.

### BIBLE-A-MONTH PROJECT JUNE: ALGERIA

Christians in Algeria are often persecuted and face discrimination. However, because of this many people's curiosity has been sparked. To find out why Christians are treated this way, people have been seeking to read the Bible for themselves and many have reached out to the Bible Society. In response to these enquiries, the Bible Society can provide them with Scriptures of their own and answer questions they may have about the Christian faith. Many of those searching for answers are immigrants or people from other faiths. The Bible Society also works to put people in touch with local churches so that they may find a Christian community to connect with.

- + Pray that the Bible Society will remain able to import or produce sufficient quantities of Scripture portions to meet the need throughout the ongoing Coronavirus outbreak.
- + Pray for those who hear the Word of God through the media and for the seekers who contact the Bible Society.
- + Pray for the Bible Society staff and volunteers involved in providing Bibles to those who need them.



## 28 JUNE – 4 JULY

### Singapore

Please pray for the Bible Society of Singapore as they seek to reach people with God's Word. Pray for their work amongst migrant workers, providing them with holistic care and free Bibles. Pray also for good relationships with the local church and other Christian organisations. The team in Singapore is led by GS Ezekiel Tan.

### Malaysia

Pray for the Bible Society of Malaysia's projects supplying migrant workers and refugees with Scripture. Pray for the translation of the Old Testament into the Penan language and for the development of study Bibles in local languages. Ask that God would use these Bibles to grow Christians in their faiths. GS Mathew Punnoose leads the work in Malaysia.

### Philippines

Pray for the "Scriptures for the Deaf" and "Digital Audio Bibles for those with Visual Disabilities" projects. Pray also for the FCBH project which works with those with low literacy to help them understand the Bible. Pray for the translation of the Bible into four indigenous Philippine languages. The work in the Philippines is led by Nora Lucero.

## 5 – 11 JULY

### England and Wales

Pray for the Lumino project, which is researching into different attitudes towards the Bible, so they can connect effectively with their audiences. Pray that the projects that have been unable to happen due to Coronavirus would be adapted and still able to reach people with the Gospel. The work here is led by Chief Executive Paul Williams.

### Scotland

Pray for the Scottish Bible Society as they promote BIBLE 2020, and as they work with App developers, media companies and mission partners to engage thousands globally with Scripture in a new, dynamic way. The work in Scotland is led by Executive Director Elaine Duncan, who is also the Chair of the UBS Global Council. Please pray for her as she carries out both of these roles.

## 12 – 18 JULY

### Northern Ireland

Pray for the Bible 2020 app as we promote it here and pray that people would engage with it. Pray that God would strengthen our connections with churches and that more people would volunteer with us. Pray as we seek to support people through the Coronavirus situation. Pray for the office staff led by General Secretary Catherine Little.

### Ireland

We are thankful for provision of both financial and human resources. Pray also for Bible 2020 as we partner with the Bible Society in Northern Ireland to realise the vision of making Scripture accessible and available to all. The work in Ireland is led by Julia McKinley. Pray for her as she reaches out to her community.

## 19 – 25 JULY

### Congo

Pray for the ongoing Beembe Old Testament translation; give thanks for the translation of the New Testament which has been made available for the 100,000 Beembe speakers. Pray for the Trauma Healing programmes and for all of the people that this reaches. Ask God to bring people to faith through this programme. The work here is led by GS Landry Enzonga Mangoyo.

### Democratic Republic of Congo

Pray for the Ndruna first Bible translation, which will enable 250,000 Ndruna speakers to access Scripture in their heart language. Praise God for the many other Bible translations which have moved to the publishing and distribution stages. Please pray for GS Christophe Kongo Kote and his team as they carry out these projects in the Democratic Republic Congo.

### Chad

Pray for the Trauma Healing programmes going on throughout Chad. Pray for the Bible translations and revisions in different native languages ongoing in 2020. Remember the staff and volunteers as they work to share the Gospel in a predominantly Muslim country. Pray for good relationships with the local churches. The Bible Society of Chad is led by GS Roland Koulanoudji.

## 26 JULY – 1 AUG

### Netherlands Antilles and Aruba

Please pray for the Bible Society team, led by GS Armin Elisa, as they work with Netherlands Bible Society to implement a plan to develop the Scripture ministry in Aruba. Pray for the revision of the Papiamentu Bible to include more up to date and understandable language and that through this more people would read and connect with their Bibles.

### Suriname

Pray for the translation of the Bible into Braille. Remember their ongoing translations of the Bible into native languages. Pray for the work of the Bible Society among refugees in Suriname as they reach out to them with the Gospel. Pray for the Bible distribution among young people. Pray for the team in Suriname led by GS Erny Van Axel.

### Venezuela

Pray for the team, led by Managing Director Javier Chacon, that they can support the church in Venezuela. Pray for the translation projects into Huottöja, Curripaco, Pemón and Venezuelan Sign Language and the many people these will impact. Pray also for the safety of these translation teams. Pray for the project which hopes to distribute 100,000 New Testaments to new believers in 2020.

“ Please pray for all Bible Societies as they face Coronavirus and the impact of this on their work. ”

## 2 – 8 AUGUST

### Costa Rica

Please pray for the financial sustainability of this Bible Society so they can provide Bible-based programmes to the people of Costa Rica. Pray for them as they promote Bible advocacy and help to train leaders to teach the Bible in churches. Pray for the Scripture portions being translated into Spanish Braille. The work in Costa Rica is led by GS Mayra Ugalde.

### Panama

Pray for the work among high-risk children. Pray that through the Bible Society of Panama the message of the Gospel would become more widely known and many people would come to faith. Pray for good relationships with churches in this country. Pray for the staff team and board in Panama is led by GS Marco Gómez.

### Nicaragua

Pray for the Bible Society of Nicaragua as they seek to distribute 100,000 New Testaments to young people around the country. Pray for the Hope and Smile project which supports children with cancer. Pray for their project which supplies training to churches and congregations to help them preach the Gospel. Pray for GS Freddy Fonseca as he leads the team here.

## 9 – 15 AUGUST

### Cote d'Ivoire

Pray for wisdom and guidance for the leadership of the Bible Society here. Pray for the church and the wider Christian community as a whole. Pray that God would touch people's hearts in Cote d'Ivoire and that many would come to know Christ.

### Liberia

Pray for the team, led by GS Paul Stevens, as they devise strategies to develop better relationships and partnerships with churches in Liberia. Pray for good relationships with other Christian organisations and that more churches would begin to partner with the Bible Society. Pray for an increase in Bible sales and distribution activities, and that more people would be engaging with their Bibles.

### Sierra Leone

Please pray for peace and economic stability in Sierra Leone. Pray that church partners will remain interested in their projects and would continue to support them. Pray for the work among young people, the visually impaired and for the Trauma Healing programme. Pray for the translation of Scripture into people's heart languages. The work here is led by Executive Secretary Christiana Jones.

## 16 – 22 AUGUST

### Croatia

Pray for the New Croatian Bible translation, which will help to make the Bible accessible in modern Croatian. Pray for the "See and Believe" project which will translate the Bible into Croatian Sign Language. Pray for their projects that share the Gospel through sport and for their work among people of different faiths. GS Damir Lipovsek leads the work here.

### Serbia

Pray for the Bible Society of Serbia as they promote Bible engagement in schools through "the Bible Adventure" programme. Pray for the literacy work among Romani youth. Pray for the translation of the Bible into Contemporary Serbian and for the translation of the New Testament into Romani. The work in Serbia is led by Executive Secretary Vera Mitic.

### Romania

Pray for all their projects and publishing activities, including Trauma Healing, work among young people and people with learning disabilities. Pray for the revision of the Cornilescu Bible to include modern day changes to the language. Pray for good relationships with all affiliated Churches and other Christian groups. GS Emilia Iorgandopol leads the Bible Society in this country.

## 23 – 29 AUGUST

### West Indies

Praise the Lord for the support for the West Indies from Bible Society partners around the world. Pray for their fundraising strategies, and that they could increase their social media presence. Pray for them as they collaborate with churches. Pray for the FCBH projects and for their work among young people. Pray for the team led by GS Courtney Stewart.

### Cuba

Praise God for the Bible distribution projects which have been going on in Cuba. Over 1 million people have received a Bible through the Cuban Bible Society. Pray that the Cuban Bible Society is able to reach different generations with the Gospel. Pray also for the translation of the Bible into Cuban Sign Language. The projects in Cuba are led by GS Alain Montano.

### Haiti

Pray for the Haitian Bible Society as they work in this difficult country. Pray that the staff, led by GS Magda Victor, would be able to carry out the projects, pray for safety as they do so. Pray for the Trauma Healing projects and for the work among school children. Pray for their relationships with churches as they work to support each other.

“ Proclaiming your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night. ”

Psalms 91:2 (NIV).

## BIBLE-A-MONTH PROJECT JULY: SYRIA

Despite unrest in Syria, Bible distribution still continues to be the main focus of the Bible Society in Syria. The demand for Scriptures in Syria is ever increasing; many people are looking to God and the Bible for hope. The Bible Society works out of three main cities: Aleppo, Tartous and Damascus. Scriptures are delivered by local volunteers from churches to those who are in more rural areas and find it harder to access God's Word. Despite the dangers, knowing God is with them wherever they go, volunteers deliver Scriptures to those who need them.

- + Pray that the Bible House would be able to reopen soon. It has had to close due to the Coronavirus, despite remaining open throughout the war.
- + With the growing tension in Syria, pray that all the Scriptures that are needed can be delivered safely to those who need them.
- + Pray for the safety of the team and volunteers as they carry out this project. Pray for the safety of all Christians in Syria.

## BIBLE-A-MONTH PROJECT AUGUST: EL SALVADOR

Poverty and social inequality mean many young people in El Salvador do not have a lot of hope for their future. Teenagers are searching for purpose and meaning in their lives. As a response to the need of these young people, the Bible Society of El Salvador is going into secondary schools and taking personal development lessons with 13-18 year olds. Over 14 lessons, students are taught about what the Bible says about their worth and their value in Christ. Students are provided with their own portion of the Bible to read and study for themselves.

- + Pray that the young people participating in this project will find God's purpose in their lives and put their trust in Christ.
- + Pray for the volunteers and teachers who lead this project, that they would have wisdom, patience and love for the teenagers they are serving.
- + Pray for the Bible Society of El Salvador as they adapt this project in light of the Coronavirus and that they would continue to reach children with the Gospel.



## 30 AUG – 5 SEPT

**Cyprus** Praise God for providing the Bible Society in Cyprus, a small organization, with all the necessary funds, despite the current financial crisis, so that they can continue to serve their society. Praise God for the New Testaments distributed in schools and pray these would have an impact on the children. The work in Cyprus is led by GS Michail Chatziagiannis.

**Turkey** Praise God for the 200 years of the Bible Society in Turkey that will be celebrated in 2020. Ask that celebrations will help the Turkish people learn about the Word of God. Pray also for the translation and revision projects in progress to provide more people with a version they can understand. The work in Turkey is led by Executive Secretary Tamar Karasu.

**Syria** Thank God for all the support provided from around the world last year. Thank God for his Word and that its distributed to all areas of Syria through the efforts of volunteers. Pray for Trauma Healing projects and the work among persecuted churches. The work here is led by GS George Andrea. Please pray for safety while staff travel in country.

## 6 – 12 SEPTEMBER

**Poland** Please pray that young people in this country would recognize the need of God's Word in their lives. Pray for the free distribution of the New Testament in schools and churches. Pray that this project is well received by students and teachers. Thank God for the distribution of the Ecumenical Bible in Poland. The work in Poland is led by GS Jadwiga Zalisz.

**Czech Republic** Pray for the eight members of staff who make sure the Bible is available to every church and resident in this country through the Czech Bible Society. Pray for their ongoing projects, particularly the new bilingual New Testament editions for young people. Ask that God would reach many people through this project. The Bible Society here is led by GS Pavel Novak.

**Slovakia** Pray for the work translating the Bible into Slovak Sign Language and for the giant print Bible for people with visual disabilities. Pray for their online presence as they try to reach new audiences through social media and video platforms. Pray for the project bringing the Gospel to school children. Pray for the team here led by GS Pavel Vilhan.

## 13 – 19 SEPTEMBER

**Denmark** Pray for Denmark's current translation project translating the full Bible into contemporary Danish. Pray that it will bear fruit and open people's hearts to the message of the Gospel. Pray for good relationships with local churches and other Christian organisations. Pray for the team of staff, volunteers and board led by GS Birgitte Larsen.

**Sweden** Please ask God to bless the Bible translations in progress into indigenous and other minority languages, as well as for the good reception and impact of the completed translations. Please pray for the Bible Adventure project and that it would reach many with the Gospel. Pray also for the members of staff led by GS Anders Göranson.

**Finland** Pray for the completion of the new translation of the New Testament into contemporary Finnish. Pray that those who read this modern translation will find faith, hope and love in Christ. Pray for Churches and donors who support Finnish Bible Society projects. Pray for Bible publishing projects. Pray for the team led by GS Markku Kotila.

## 20 – 26 SEPTEMBER

**Dominican Republic** Please thank God for the "A Bible in Every Backpack", "Bibles for Weapons", and "They Will Hear God" projects which have allowed thousands access to the Bible. Pray for the work among the deaf community, refugees and immigrants. Pray for the team, led by GS Carmen De Acosta, and that God will use them to spread His Word to those who need it.

**East Caribbean** Pray for the Bible Society in this country as they work among their people to spread God's Word. Pray for partnerships with local churches and that they would be an encouragement to local Christians. Pray for their outreach work and that people would respond positively to the Gospel. Pray for GS Owen Williams as he leads the team.

**Puerto Rico** Pray for the Bible Society of Puerto Rico as they work with the local church to reach everyone with God's Word. Pray for work among different ages and that many would come to faith in Christ. Pray for the team of staff, volunteers and board as they carry out the work, led by GS Heriberto Martinez-Rivera.

## 27 SEPT – 3 OCT

**Egypt** Pray for the Bible Society of Egypt as they seek to increase Bible distribution, engagement with the Bible, and growing interest in Bible products and programmes. Pray that they would be able to make Scriptures available and affordable to all. Pray for the Kingo festivals for children and young people. The work here is led by GS Ramez Atallah.

**Jordan** Pray for Bible Society in Jordan's plan to establishing a Ministry Centre - a multi-purpose venue to serve God's Word-in the heart of Amman, the country's capital. Pray that this will make both the Bible and Bible Society much more accessible to everyone. Pray for the Trauma Healing and Children of God projects. GS Munther Al-Namat leads the Bible Society here.

**Lebanon** Pray that they can serve the Church in the Middle East through translations, publications, digital apps, Bible distribution, engagement and Trauma Healing programmes that assist children, young people and adults. Pray especially for their work among refugees, and that these people would respond to the Gospel. Pray also for their supporters and staff, led by GS Michael Bassous.

“For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

Psalms 100:5 (NIV)

# International News

## World Day of Prayer 2020: Zimbabwe

Every year World Day of Prayer supports a different country around the world. In 2020 the World Day of Prayer celebrations on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020 were focused on Zimbabwe.

In partnership with the World Day of Prayer, the Bible Society of Zimbabwe is running a project to support mothers of differently abled children. This project provides mothers from all walks of life with Scripture and support. Many of these ladies and their children, regardless of their social standing, have been rejected or mistreated by society. These ladies find it difficult to attend church and other social gatherings because of the stigma surrounding

their children's conditions. This project aims to empower mothers through the Gospel and show them they are loved and valued by their Creator, while also giving them practical tools to help cope with everyday family life.

This project mainly takes place through workshops and specialist training for mothers. There are also support groups where mothers can study the Bible together and hear testimonies from others who have raised children living with a disability. This project hopes to reduce the stigma and isolation surrounding the families of children

living with a disability, whilst also highlighting the reality of disability in their communities.

Support is provided for children who may need disability aids or help with their education. Care is also provided for these children while their mothers attend workshops. Where needed there is a literacy element to this project to help children who struggle with dyslexia or other educational needs.



Shumirai reads the Bible to her children. Her daughter Maka (left) has Down's Syndrome.

## Florence's Story

*"The Bible is like my aunt because it helps me so much," says Florence. "The Bible is a pillar of strength for me. When I am lost, it gives me direction. I can rely on the Bible. Even if I am troubled it gives me relief. When I read it rebukes me".*



Florence, with her well-read Bible, whose cover has come off, and her 10-year-old disabled granddaughter, Memory.

Florence has been taking care of her granddaughter, Memory, ever since her daughter, Memory's mother, abandoned her when she was a few months old. Caring for Memory is a costly and all-consuming job. Florence is unable to leave her alone, even for a moment. As a result, she is isolated.

Florence and her husband are struggling to make ends meet, but

she is grateful for a group of women from the World Day of Prayer committee, who visit her.

*"Because I can't go to church, I'm so grateful for the group," she says. "They help me a lot when they come for a visit. We do Bible Study and it teaches me more about the Bible. That gives me comfort."*

Families with disabled children are often isolated, facing rejection by their communities, churches and wider family. The Bible Society of Zimbabwe's World Day of Prayer project aims to bring support and hope to these families.

## BIBLE-A-MONTH PROJECT SEPTEMBER: PAKISTAN

**Around 60% of women in Pakistan cannot read or write, often leaving them living in poverty.** This illiteracy is also reflected among the women of the church. The "Beacon in the Light of Illiteracy" seeks to teach women of all ages to read and write through Scripture. In 2019 the Bible Society in Pakistan was able to partner with twelve churches to run over 240 classes. Women are excited to learn to read and write but are especially excited to be able to read the Scriptures for themselves. In 2020 they hope to increase this number and reach even more women with God's Word.

- + Pray for the ladies who are participating in this project. Pray they would understand the Gospel and turn to God.
- + Pray for Bible Society Staff for working this project, pray that they would be encouraged in their work and continue to share God's Word.
- + Pray for the Pakistan Bible Society as they adapt their projects to meet safety restrictions related to Coronavirus. Pray for safety of participants, staff and volunteers.





# BIBLE 2020



In every season and every circumstance, whether good or bad, easy or difficult, the Bible gives us the great encouragement that “The word of our God endures forever” (Isaiah 40:8).

As Bible Society NI and our global fellowship journey through our BIBLE 2020 project we are seeing how God’s Word, through this smartphone app, is having a huge impact across the globe.

To date there are:

 **16,500+** Christians have downloaded the app and are proclaiming God’s Word out loud.

 **12,000** videos uploaded from countries like UK, New Zealand, Sweden, Chile, Bolivia, Croatia, Fiji, South Africa and many more.

Countless lives across the world being touched and reached by the Bible as people see these videos shared across social media platforms.

We are thankful and encouraged to see and be a part of this at *Bible Society NI*.

In Northern Ireland we want to thank you for your involvement from Islandmagee to Londonderry, Dungannon to Larne, Lisburn to Armagh and lots of other places in between. If you haven’t had the chance to do this either individually or with your church, why not download the App today – simply search for *Bible2020* – and get creative in how you read this summer. Here are some ideas:

Whatever you do, be sure to send in your pictures and stories to [info@biblesocietyni.co.uk](mailto:info@biblesocietyni.co.uk) to be included in our Autumn W@W Magazine.

Keep reading, keep proclaiming and keep remembering, God’s Word never returns empty (Isaiah 55:11).

### ZOOM Groups

In these days of social distancing why not set up an online group of people from your church and spend time everyday reading the Bible out loud together and praying for its impact across the world and in one another’s lives.

### Walk

Take a walk through your local area for your daily exercise and read verses aloud on the streets. Why not pray as you read; pledging the truths and promises of Scripture to the lives of those who live in your community.

### Get Creative

Paint, draw, sketch or illustrate your favourite Bible (or visit our website to download some colouring pages for kids); act out a story and make a video; or even plant something in your garden that reflects the character and creativity of our God.

# BIBLE 2020 READINGS

Tens of thousands of Christians all across the world, including many here in Northern Ireland, are reading God’s Word out loud every day. Lives are being changed and the church strengthened. Throughout June – September the *BIBLE 2020* App will take you on a journey exploring: the Holy Spirit, the Church, God’s power in weakness, hope in suffering, the book of Ruth and more. Why not join with us over the summer months and read the Bible out loud wherever you find yourself: at home, at work, and even on holiday and help us reach everyone with God’s Word.



“ Join with us over the summer months and read the Bible out loud wherever you find yourself. ”

## JUNE

- 1 John 16:7
- 2 Acts 1:4-5
- 3 Acts 2:1-8
- 4 Acts 2:14-17
- 5 Acts 2:18-21
- 6 Acts 2:32-33
- 7 Matthew 5:14-16
- 8 Matthew 16:16-18
- 9 Acts 4:32-35
- 10 Acts 2:42-47
- 11 Acts 6:1-4
- 12 Acts 5:12-16
- 13 Acts 11:19-21
- 14 Titus 2:11-14
- 15 1 Corinthians 12:12-14
- 16 Ephesians 2:14-18
- 17 Ephesians 2:19-22
- 18 Ephesians 4:2-6
- 19 Philippians 2:1-4
- 20 1 Peter 2:9-10
- 21 Haggai 1:7-9
- 22 Revelation 7:13-15
- 23 Revelation 7:16-17
- 24 Revelation 21:1-5
- 25 Psalm 121:1-8
- 26 Isaiah 40:28-31
- 27 Isaiah 41:10
- 28 Psalm 46:1-3
- 29 Psalm 125:1-2
- 30 Exodus 15:2

## JULY

- 1 Isaiah 35:3-4
- 2 Joshua 1:7-9
- 3 Judges 6:12-14
- 4 Ephesians 6:10-13
- 5 Ephesians 6:14-18
- 6 Psalm 91:1-2
- 7 Numbers 6:22-27
- 8 John 14:27
- 9 Matthew 11:28-30
- 10 Proverbs 3:5-6
- 11 Matthew 6:31-34
- 12 Psalm 37:3-7
- 13 Philippians 4:12-13
- 14 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
- 15 Psalm 33:20-22
- 16 Psalm 34:4-8
- 17 Isaiah 43:1-2
- 18 Ecclesiastes 3:1-4
- 19 Isaiah 40:1-3
- 20 Zephaniah 3:6-17
- 21 2 Corinthians 1:3-5
- 22 Philippians 1:19-21
- 23 James 1:12
- 24 Hebrews 11:1-3
- 25 Romans 5:3-5
- 26 Romans 8:18-21
- 27 Romans 8:25-27
- 28 2 Corinthians 4:7-10
- 29 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
- 30 Romans 8:28-30
- 31 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

## AUGUST

- 1 John 12:23-25
- 2 Revelation 14:12-13
- 3 Romans 15:13
- 4 1 Samuel 2:1-2
- 5 Ruth 1:1-2
- 6 Ruth 1:3-5
- 7 Ruth 1:15-18
- 8 Ruth 1:19-20
- 9 Ruth 2:1-4
- 10 Ruth 2:17-18
- 11 Ruth 2:19-20
- 12 Ruth 2:21-23
- 13 Ruth 3:2-5
- 14 Ruth 3:8-9
- 15 Ruth 3:10-13
- 16 Ruth 3:16-18
- 17 Ruth 4:2-6
- 18 Ruth 4:9-10
- 19 Ruth 4:13-17
- 20 1 Samuel 2:6-8
- 21 Isaiah 55:1-2
- 22 Psalm 63:1-4
- 23 1 Kings 8:27-30
- 24 Psalm 86:1-7
- 25 Psalm 5:1-3
- 26 Ezra 8:22-23
- 27 Psalm 42:1-3
- 28 2 Kings 19:17-19
- 29 Matthew 6:9-13
- 30 Matthew 7:7-8
- 31 Matthew 7:9-11

## SEPTEMBER

- 1 Ephesians 1:18-21
- 2 Ephesians 3:14-19
- 3 Philippians 1:3-6
- 4 Philippians 1:9-11
- 5 Philippians 4:4-7
- 6 Philemon v.4-6
- 7 1 Timothy 2:1-4
- 8 James 5:13-18
- 9 Psalm 116:1-6
- 10 Psalm 119:89-93
- 11 Psalm 119:103-105
- 12 Psalm 119:129-131
- 13 Psalm 119:147-149
- 14 Isaiah 40:6-8
- 15 Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- 16 Psalm 19:8
- 17 Isaiah 55:10-11
- 18 Exodus 20:1-3
- 19 Amos 8:11-12
- 20 Nehemiah 8:9-10
- 21 Romans 10:16-18
- 22 Matthew 7:24:27
- 23 Luke 8:11-15
- 24 John 14:23-24,
- 25 2 Timothy 3:14-17
- 26 1 Thessalonians 2:13
- 27 Hebrews 4:12-13
- 28 James 1:22-25
- 29 2 Timothy 2:1-2
- 30 Matthew 25:35-36

# Arab Israeli Appeal

## Support for the Arab Israeli Bible Society

There are three independent Bible Societies in the Holy Lands that serve the whole community of Israel and Palestine. These three offices work closely together, but each serves its own unique community: the Palestinian community, the Jewish community and the Arab Israeli community. This year we are supporting the Arab Israeli Bible Society to help them maintain and develop the ministry in their society.

The Arab Israeli Bible Society plays a crucial role in providing Arabic Bibles and other resources for the 1.7 million Arab citizens of Israel. They have a strong presence online, but also seek to have a strong physical presence. Their headquarters are based in Nazareth, out of which they base their activities and projects and provide a safe environment for engaging with the Bible. Their visible physical presence is important, especially as a Christian minority. Living among a Muslim majority, within the state of Israel that has a Jewish majority, they describe themselves as a “double minority”.

### Inspiring Women with the Gospel

Two years ago, in 2018, we had the privilege of hosting Dina Katanacho, the General Secretary of the Arab Israeli Bible Society. She spoke at Bangor Worldwide about the work of the Arab Israeli Bible Society and of the people that they were reaching. There is a strong patriarchal culture in this part of the world and as a result the Bible Society and local church struggle to get women to engage with the Bible. To have Dina as the General Secretary sets an example to the local church and wider Society that God and the Bible values men and women equally- the Arab Israeli Bible Society want to help everyone, especially women, engage with God's Word.

### Reaching Everyone in the Arab Community

In recent years the Arab Israeli Bible Society has grown. They are hosting more workshops, distributing more literature and partnering with more local churches.



A group of students participating in a Bible engagement course.

The Arab Israeli Bible Society is passionate about advocating for the importance of reading the Bible as a family within churches. This is essential to ensure that future generations of the church in Israel are rooted in the Gospel and in God's Word. They also have projects to reach children and young people with the Gospel, teaching them biblical values. Often young people are disheartened by the situation in their country and the surrounding areas. Some have come from violent backgrounds or have faced discrimination. The Bible Society hopes to empower these young people with God's Word and the hope of the Gospel. It is their prayer that through reaching this younger generation that God would impact the situation in the Middle East.

### A Modern-Day Translation

The Bible Society in Arab Israeli is also working on updating the Arabic Bible so that it is more accessible in the colloquial language of today. Like all languages, Arabic has changed a lot since the Bible was first translated, and many struggle to understand the formal and outdated language. There are many local scholars and translators who are fluent in both the classical and colloquial languages working on this project. The Arab Israeli Bible Society hopes that through this modern translation more would read the Bible and understand its impact on their lives.

### A Biblical Response to Coronavirus

During the first half of 2020 Coronavirus has spread across the globe, affecting every aspect of our lives. The Arab Israeli Bible Society has also been affected, having to change the way they carry out projects. They are blessed that they already had a strong online presence and are relying on it now more than ever to reach everyone with God's Word.

They want to see as many people as possible engaging with the Bible and letting it impact their lives. However, they cannot do it without the wider church's prayerful and financial support- please join us in supporting the work in the Arab community of Israel.



## Pray for this project:

- + Pray that God will continue to lead Arab Israeli Bible Society and fulfill his will through it. Pray for the staff and volunteers as they carry out projects among the Arab community. Pray for safety and that they would be encouraged in their work.
- + Pray for the people who are impacted by this project. Pray for Christians and churches as the Arab Israeli Bible Society supports them. Ask that they would be strengthened in their faith and that they would be able to be witnesses to those around them.
- + Pray for non-Christians on those from other faiths that they would hear God's Word and be challenged by it. Pray that the Holy Lands would be positively impacted by God's Word.

## Donate

If you would like to donate to this project here's the difference your gift could make:

- + £15 could provide 5 people with a copy of the Psalms.
- + £30 could provide 3 people with the New Testament.
- + £50 could help to update the Arabic Bible translation into modern Arabic.

If you would like to donate to this project simply fill out the form that was included with this magazine. You can also donate online on our website at [www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/project/israel-bible-society-ministry](http://www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/project/israel-bible-society-ministry) or scan this QR code with your smartphone.



# Puzzle Time!

To help keep your mind active while you might be isolated, we've included some brain teasers in this edition of Word at Work.

See if you can find all the Bible Society NI related words in our word search below!

The answers are upside down at the bottom of this page.

- + TRANSLATION
- + PRODUCTION
- + DISTRIBUTION
- + ENGAGEMENT
- + ADVOCACY
- + LITERACY
- + VIETNAM
- + TOGO
- + CAMBODIA
- + PERU
- + MALAWI
- + KENYA
- + ALGERIA
- + INDIA
- + GHANA
- + EGYPT
- + CUBA
- + CHINA
- + CHILE
- + AUSTRIA
- + ALBANIA



W J O V E H C S E Y B R S X C D U  
 P V V O L U V A U S T R I A T I V  
 S R G O U I Z G M Z U U M O E S P  
 H X O M T L T C K B Z F J Z N T A  
 Z K Z D A R E E L J O Q N P G R L  
 L B E U U L A I R J I D C Q A I B  
 A P G N T C A N F A Y W I U G B A  
 L U E H Y X T W S Q C O E A E U N  
 G E X R A A T I I L X Y S Q M T I  
 E C D G U N T H O L A M Y A E I A  
 R X F A E E A I R N A T F T N O Z  
 I M B L W P G M N N O Y I H T N L  
 A U I O K X P Y T D I F O O K D J  
 C H G P F F Z E P N I W Q A N M D  
 C O Z Y Q J I F Q T K A H U F U J  
 T L X A D V O C A C Y T W Z F V O  
 D Z J F O Y W Z F E D C H I N A X

## Answers

X V N I N A C H I N D E F E W Z Y O F J Z Z D  
 O A F Z M Z C V T L V D V L X L T L X T  
 J U H U F O J I F O D Y O Z Z G O G O  
 D N N A V A K K A F E F F F Z Z G H G  
 J U I O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O  
 L N L H T N N O N M N P G M N N O N N  
 Z O O T N A T F T N O Z I M B L W P G  
 Y A E A E A I R N A T F T N O Z I M B  
 L U E H Y X T W S Q C O E A E U N G E  
 X R A A T I I L X Y S Q M T I E C D G  
 U N T H O L A M Y A E I A R X F A E E  
 A I R N A T F T N O Z I M B L W P G M  
 N N O Y I H T N L A U I O K X P Y T D  
 I F O O K D J C H G P F F Z E P N I W  
 Q A N M D C O Z Y Q J I F Q T K A H U  
 F U J T L X A D V O C A C Y T W Z F V  
 O D Z J F O Y W Z F E D C H I N A X

- 1. Translation
- 2. Philippines
- 3. Peru
- 4. Palestine
- 5. Chile
- 6. Malawi
- 7. China
- 8. Cuba
- 9. Engagement
- 10. Uruguay

Our work goes right around the world. Why not try these "Fireside Quiz" questions to test your knowledge.

Questions 1 and 9 involve the nature of our work; all the rest are countries where we are supporting projects in 2020.

1. Getting it into your own language. (11 letters)
2. EHIILNPPPS - Just rearrange. (11 letters)
3. Peruse has lost its last cardinals. (4 letters)
4. Adjust the tapelines to make alternative penalties. (9 letters)
5. Very cold here. (5 letters)
6. Panama law illegal? Answer included – but it's not Panama! (6 letters)
7. Can't hear? It's not audible, initially! (5 letters)
8. See you – be eh. Just say it. (4 letters)
9. Betrothal we all should have with the Bible. (10 letters)
10. Friar Benedict, Spanish and Jules Rimet - the connection. (7 letters)



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# W@W!

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