

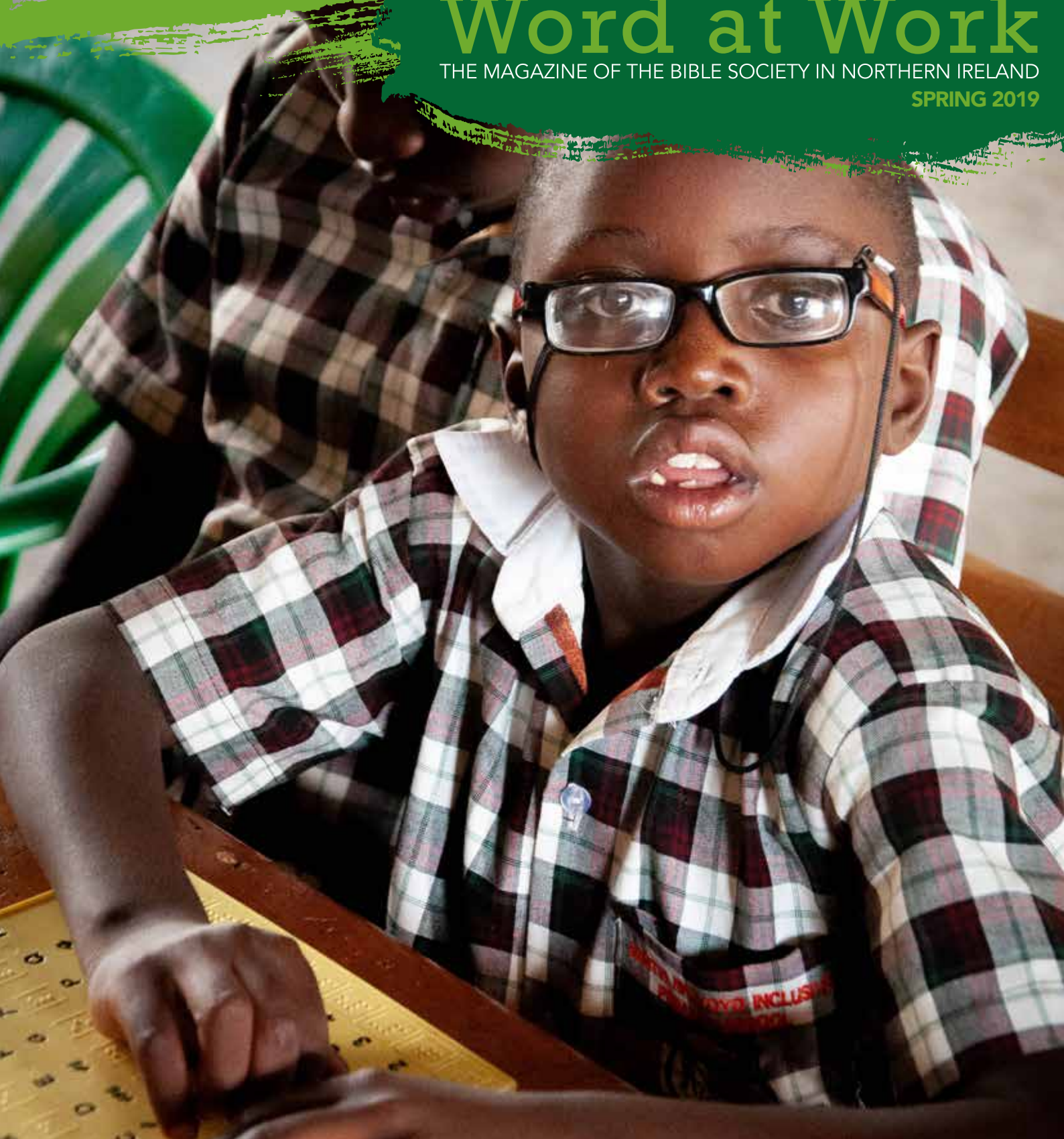


W@W!

Word at Work

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

SPRING 2019



HELP PEOPLE WHO ARE VISUALLY IMPAIRED READ THE BIBLE. PAGES 14-15

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Cover photo shows a young boy learning to read braille in Uganda. Read how the Bible Society is making a difference on pages 14-15.



Welcome

Catherine Little
General Secretary, Bible Society NI

At this time of year, I find myself looking at the year ahead – what has to be fitted in; what do I want to achieve; what needs to be done? I do this personally, but we also do this as a Bible Society.

We have been working on a new strategic plan which sets out the things that we want to see happen and the things we want to achieve in the next few years. Planning for what we want to do and achieve will make us a stronger Bible Society. The writer of Ecclesiastes in Chapter 3 verse 1 reminds us that there is a time for everything, the Message version says that there is an 'opportune time to do things'.

We are in opportune times to reach people with God's Word. We are supporting Bible Society projects which translate, publish and distribute the Bible, which help people learn to read and engage better with the Bible.

In this edition of Word at Work you can read about these opportunities – read about some resources to help people connect with the Bible here as well as the projects from further away like Uganda where the Bible Society is providing God's Word to those with visual disabilities.

All our work is wrapped in prayer. Join us by using our Prayer at Work pages to pray for other Bible Societies as you also pray for our work.

There are still people around the world who have never had access to the Bible. There are also many people who don't see the Bible as relevant anymore or who have never had a meaningful connection with God's Word. We have opportunities ahead of us to change this for some people.

As you look to the year ahead what are you planning? Could you include Bible Society in Northern Ireland in those plans, invite us to speak at your church or event, plan to do some extra fundraising for our work?

Together we will see God do amazing things in 2019. We rely on your support, prayers and encouragement as we seek to reach everyone with God's Word. Thank you for joining with us in this great work.

Every blessing

Catherine Little



Leading a Bible reading from Lugandan Braille for the first time. Read more on pages 14-15.

Our Hopes for 2019

In 2019 we want to see lives changed. We want to see more people receiving God's Word into their hands and into their hearts. We're praying that people all over the world would hear and accept the good news about Jesus Christ. It's a big request, but we trust that God will use Bible Societies around the world to make this happen.

It's exciting to think about what could happen when people work together. The places and people that could be reached; the joy and love that could flow through our lands. Will you join with us to see this happen?

This year we are partnering with Bible Societies in 35 countries as they run incredible programmes to make God and His Word known. Here are just a few examples of what will be happening...

Translation

Translation work continues to be a key area of Bible Society work as we strive to reach people in their heart language. This year we'll be supporting the translation of Scripture into West Toba in Argentina, 20 different languages in India, Tinggian in the Philippines, and into Lithuanian Sign Language. It's exciting that in 2019 a translation that we've been funding for years will be finished; a new translation of the Albanian Bible will be printed and distributed!

Distribution

We want as many people as possible to receive a Bible, so we'll be supporting Bible Societies working with lots of different audiences. Refugees will be receiving aid in Austria, Lebanon and Jordan. Bibles will be given out to people in China, Cuba and Syria, to police officers in Honduras, families in Malawi, river communities in Paraguay, and listening groups in Togo.

It's exciting to think about what could happen when people work together

Literacy

It is so important for people to have literacy skills. Not only does this help them in their work and family life but allows them to have a deeper understanding of Scripture. This year we'll be supporting literacy work in Cambodia, Pakistan and Peru.

Children and Young People

Bible Societies love to share the good news of Jesus with children and young people. In 2019 orphans in Bulgaria will receive Bibles, food and clothes; primary school pupils in Ghana will get the Bible; children in Bethlehem will hear all about Jesus; and kids in Peru will be given breakfasts and Bibles.

You can join with us as we support this work. Pray for these different projects. Give a financial gift to help more people receive Bibles. We will be telling you lots more about these projects over the year so make sure you are receiving material from us, so you can keep updated. Visit www.biblesocietyni.co.uk to sign up to receive updates from us in the post and by email. Let's work together to see lives changed in 2019.



Children in Peru are being given breakfasts and Bibles.



Ladies receive Bibles in a church in Cuba.



Refugee families in Lebanon are receiving aid.



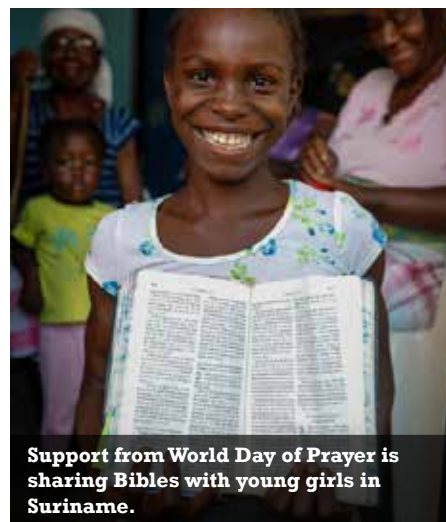
A man in China is happy to have a Bible of his own.

World Day of Prayer

This year the England, Wales and Northern Ireland Committee of World Day of Prayer have been supporting Bible Society work in Suriname through prayer and finance. This support is helping women and children to be empowered through the Word of God – women and children who are being abused, mistreated, neglected and hurt. Through churches, ministries and organisations, the Suriname Bible Society is reaching out to people in their heart language, empowering people with the Word of God and providing trauma healing training sessions to allow people to deal with their past hurts.

Children are gathering together and taking part in art and drama competitions. Women are being invited to events where they are taught about the women in the Bible and given time to reflect and relax. Scripture is being shared with all who take part.

A huge thank you to the World Day of Prayer committee for their support.



Support from World Day of Prayer is sharing Bibles with young girls in Suriname.



Laura Kerr reflects on the partnership between Bible Society NI and WMP.

One Body, Sharing Christ Around the World

Laura Kerr from Irish Methodist World Mission Partnership (WMP) has written a blog for the Bible Society NI website. It is a beautiful reflection on what it means to work in partnership, together sharing God's Word around the world. Partnership is a key aspect of Bible Society work, and Laura puts it wonderfully when she says,

"We appreciate the value in translating the Good News into a person's heart language, whether written, visual or oral. We see the impact of communicating through

storytelling and relationship. In all of this, we know we can't do it alone. We don't have the skills, resources, capacity or the geographical connections. It is precisely for this reason that we join with Bible Societies around the world and support them in the incredible work they are already doing."

We are thrilled to be partnering with WMP in this work. Visit our website to read Laura's blog and find out more about this partnership www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/bible/bible-blog-ni/



Get in touch on 028 9032 6577 to chat about resources.

New Resources

It is our heart to reach everyone with God's Word. We support Bible mission all over the world, but we also want to help people grow in their understanding of the Bible here in our own context.

We want to draw your attention to a few new resources which will help you, your friends and family and churches to engage more with the Bible.

We have produced another Daily Bible Reading Guide for 2019. This provides a passage of Scripture for every day to encourage the habit of Bible reading.

Why not get in touch for copies for your friends, family and church.

Our new resource 'Where to look' provides a signpost to passages in the Bible that help in all sorts of situations. This is something we all could use as we navigate our way around our Bibles.

Finally, we are excited to tell you about 'The Bible Course' from our sister Bible Society in England and Wales. This is an 8-week small group resource which helps to explore the Bible. It comes with video resources and a manual for each week. Copies are available to purchase from us so get in touch to inspire your church community with the Bible.

Story

'Story' is our new Bible resource produced and filmed in Northern Ireland. We've been working with **Play it by Ear** drama company to create this great aid to both personal and group Bible study.

How it works:

1. Visit our website or social media to watch a 'Story' video. This short video will introduce a Bible character to you and help you get a glimpse into their story.
2. Read the full story in the Bible.
3. Reflect on this story using the questions provided.

We asked Play it by Ear a few questions about 'Story' and why they decided to partner with us...

Tell us a bit about yourselves.

Play it by Ear is a very small drama company, both in numbers of people and height. It is made up of Chris Neilands and Ross Jonas and we travel round the island of Ireland, the United Kingdom and sometimes slightly beyond using drama to help people express themselves, tell stories and engage with faith. Essentially it is a hobby that has got wildly out of control and is now a full-time job, and it has been a real adventure seeing where God will lead us next.

How do you share the Bible with people?

We share our faith through drama in three main ways. Firstly, through performance; this can be 5 minute sketches as part of a service, or a full length play as part of a festival. We have performed on stages, streets, fields and even a river! Our aim when performing is to bring the Bible to people in a fresh way which helps them ask questions. Secondly, we take workshops, get people up on their feet and get them, through drama, games and activities, to

explore Bible stories. Thirdly, we write scripts that people can purchase and use themselves as part of services and events.

You created our 'Story' videos. What is your hope for them?

We have really enjoyed writing and filming for the 'Story' resource. It's been a real pleasure to work with Bible Society NI and Foxmere Films to produce short videos that approach the stories from a slightly different angle than usual. Hopefully this will encourage people to watch the videos and think either, "That seems interesting, I would like to read a bit more about that" or, "Here, I thought I knew what that story was all about but I hadn't really noticed that bit before"... and then pick up the Bible and give it a read.

That is the aim of 'Story' – to get people reading the Bible. Whether you use it in your own devotions, or you download the resources from the website and use them in a group study, 'Story' will help you to take a fresh look at God's Word. Visit www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/resources/story-watch-read-reflect/ to watch your first 'Story' video.



Ross from Play it by Ear on set for the filming of a 'Story' video.



Chris from Play it by Ear is filmed for a 'Story' video.



Thank you to Play it by Ear for putting the stories together so thoughtfully, and to Foxmere Films who produced our videos for us. We have loved working in partnership to help people engage with God's Word.

Filling the Gaps

Prayer is vital to all that we do through Bible Societies around the world. Seeking God’s way rather than our own is always the wisest way forward! Some of you have noticed that the timing of the magazine led to some missing weeks in the prayer diary. We have given it a little thought and decided to fill in the gaps, so this edition of the magazine has prayers for January to May.

P@W!

Prayer at Work

PULL OUT AND KEEP PRAYER GUIDE

SPRING 2019

Ways to Pray

Did you know that we have two ways to get prayer material by email? You can sign up through our website at www.biblesociety.co.uk where the following options are available:

Extra Insight is a single country focus on the first day 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. Why not have a look?

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.

JANUARY 20-26

Albania Pray for GS Altin Hysi and all who work with him. Praise God that the Bible translation into modern Albanian is complete. Pray for the work going in to the launch and the hope to see at least 30,000 copies distributed. Pray also for the continued reach of ministry to youth through sports tournaments and for the Bible Exhibition.

Macedonia Ask for God’s leading for the team working on the NT translation into modern Macedonian. Pray also for the work going into translating and recording stories of Jesus in Macedonian Sign Language. Pray for the special Bible Week to promote Bible engagement in churches. Pray for GS Petko Zlateski and the team.

Bulgaria GS Radoslav Apostolov leads the team. Pray for Bible engagement work with High School and University students and for work reaching children in orphanages with Scripture as well as people who are visually impaired. Through partners they are reaching addicts, refugees and prisoners. Pray for their Handwritten Bible project to mark 150 years of the Bulgarian Bible.

JAN 27 - FEB 2

Greece GS Michail Chatziannis leads the team as they distribute God’s Word to the military, youth, and students. Pray that the new Illustrated Bible will lead many children into new life. Pray for their special efforts to reach people who are marginalised through homelessness and addiction. Pray for the NT revision project and work on producing a Greek Study Bible.

Italy Pray for the staff and Board as they seek to strengthen church relations and partnerships with other Christian organisations. Pray for more local support for their work, for new supporters and successful fundraising for work in Italy and around the world. Ask for new ways to engage with this increasingly secular society.

Malta Pray for GS Paul Agius and the Board as they continue to shape a new ministry in Malta. This is a difficult environment that is mostly secular with a huge tourist industry. Pray for wisdom in how to make God’s Word known and develop the Bible Society here. Pray for good connections with churches and partners.

Bible-a-month Project January: Ghana

Primary School teachers in Ghana have asked the Bible Society for Bibles. In school, they are teaching the children about the Bible but they don’t have any copies to give to them. Many of the children really want Bibles but their parents can’t afford to buy them. The Bible Society of Ghana is answering this request. They are going to schools all over the country to give out Bibles and Scripture books to children between 6 and 12 years old.

- Pray for the children in Ghana who are receiving Bibles, that they would love hearing the words of Jesus and know that he is their Saviour.
- Pray for the staff of the Bible Society of Ghana who are visiting schools across the country. Pray that they would be strengthened and encouraged in their work.
- This important work can only happen when the Bible Society receives funding – pray that God would provide them with all that they need to share his Word with the children in Ghana.



This month £5 will give a child in Ghana the Bible that they have been waiting for.

FEBRUARY 3-9

Zambia Give thanks for the number of first time Bible and NT translation projects and revision projects in progress to reach language groups who are still waiting. Pray also for the Good Samaritan Programme and Trauma Healing work that is taking place to minister to people impacted by HIV/AIDS. Pray for GS Abraham Chikasa, team, Board and partners who work to make God's Word known.

Angola Pray for GS Beatriz Hupa and her small team as they seek to make God's Word available to all. Pray especially for the eight Bible and NT translation projects they are engaged in. Pray also for their FCBH programme for people who are visually impaired and for the Bible distribution to prisoners. Pray that God will provide a warehouse where they can store Scripture for distribution.

Mozambique Many teams are engaged in first time Bible translation work for people groups who have never had Scripture. Pray too for the Bible revisions to reach new generations with language they can read. Pray for the continued efforts to create Bible Hubs to improve Bible access for all. Pray for Executive Secretary Valente Tseco who manages these teams as well as the FCBH and Good Samaritan ministries.

FEBRUARY 10-16

Arab Israeli Pray for Director Dina Katanacho, her staff team and many volunteers. Praise God for the Scripture Community Centre in Galilee where so much takes place to strengthen families and empower women. Pray for the ministry to children and young people and the work to build strong church partnerships. Ask that the Bible message would bring much needed hope to many.

Israel Executive Director Victor Kalisher leads the team here as they work to reach people with the Bible. Pray for protection and provision for them and their ministry. Pray for ongoing work to revise the Modern Hebrew NT and for the growth of the Hebrew language Bible website. Pray for their bookshop in Tel Aviv, the impact on the migrant population and the development of children's literature.

Palestine Pray for the team led by GS Nashat Filmon as they minister in a country in need of political, economic and social stability. Pray for the Trauma Healing ministry and that God's Word will bring much peace to individuals and communities. Praise God for the different programmes to reach children, young people and families as well as efforts to help people from other faiths with humanitarian assistance. Pray for hope and peace.

FEBRUARY 17-23

Chile Ask God to bless GS Francisco Errazu and team as they work to make His Word known. Pray for provision and strong relationships with churches and partner agencies. Pray for the continued first time translation of the Bible in to the Mapudungun language. Pray for the sports ministry for children at risk and for their special ministry to reach people with hope and assistance in times of crisis.

Uruguay Give thanks for the work going in to creating a Sign Language Bible and for the children's drawing material to help Bible engagement. Pray for the different approaches to reach young people with God's message and values. Pray for the travelling team who cover many miles to deliver God's Word to remote churches, schools and communities. Pray for the team led by GS Samuel Duarte.

Argentina Pray for the work on the Bible in Argentinian Sign Language and a special version for children. Pray also for the translation into the West Toba language and literacy classes for indigenous language groups. Pray that Braille Scripture will be accessible to all who need it. Pray for all this and much more, carried out by GS Ruben Del Ré and team.

FEB 24 - MARCH 2

Armenia Give thanks for the ministry here led by GS Yeznik Petrosyan. Pray for the huge efforts to bring the Bible to the more remote border villages of Armenia. Ask God to bless each person receiving Scripture including school children and the armed forces. Give thanks that the Bible is often welcomed warmly. Pray too for the work to create a NT in contemporary language as well as a Study NT.

Georgia Ask God to bless the ongoing free distribution of Children's Bibles for children whose families are in need or have been internally displaced. May these Bibles bring hope to the whole family. Pray that the new Youth NT will help many young people engage with the Bible and know God in their lives. Pray for the work of the board and staff led by Executive Director Avtandil Guruli.

Azerbaijan Pray for GS Rasim Khalilov and the new team as they work to establish this very young Bible Society. Pray for the children's resources they are promoting and for the availability of God's Word to all who want it. Pray that their Bible Day will become a well-supported annual event in the Church calendar, encouraging strong church relations, encouraging Bible engagement and highlighting the work of the Bible Society.

Thank you for your faithful prayers

Bible-a-month Project February: Guatemala

Children living in sheltered accommodation have experienced unimaginable pain. The Bible Society is running the 'Free to Live' project to bring much needed help to girls who are struggling to cope with what has happened to them in the past – girls who have been victims of human trafficking and sexual abuse, and girls as young as ten years old who are taking care of their babies. Bible based trauma healing programmes are helping these girls to discover that Jesus loves and cares for them.

- Pray for girls who have been victims of sexual abuse and trafficking. Ask God to bring hope and healing, that these girls would be able to move forward with their lives.
- Pray especially for young girls who are becoming mothers. Pray that they would have the support they need to love and raise their children.
- Thank God for the vital trauma work that the Bible Society of Guatemala is running for girls living in shelters. Pray that God's Word would give light to these dark places.



This month £5 will give a Bible to a girl in Guatemala who needs to know they are loved.

MARCH 3-9

New Zealand This is an increasingly secularised society with fewer people attending church and following the Bible. Pray that more young people would engage with youth resources and people of all ages would be drawn to the Bible. Pray for ongoing Maori and Tokelauan translations. The very first Tokelauan Bible should go to print this year. Pray for CEO Francis Burdett and the whole team.

Australia Pray for the team spread over different locations in this vast country, led by CEO Greg Clarke. Bible Society Australia is involved in translating, publishing and distributing the Bible in print, audio and digital versions to people of all ages. Pray too for their efforts to make the Bible heard publicly, the publication of Bible reading materials and the provision of literacy support, both in Australia and overseas.

South Pacific Pray for the new GS Geoffry Miller and the whole team as they minister out of Fiji across 16 islands. Pray for ongoing translation, publication and distribution of Scripture in a number of languages. Give thanks for the work with rural communities to help them better understand and apply the Bible to daily life. Pray for the 'Kingdom Kids' project, making the Bible available to children.

MARCH 10-16

Austria Pray for GS Jutta Henner and all the work the team are engaged in. Give thanks for the many school children who visit the Bible Centre in Vienna and for the opportunities to take part in exhibitions, events, lectures and media programmes throughout the year. Pray for the ongoing ministry to migrants, particularly refugees, including those in detention centres or in prison.

Switzerland Please pray for all the refugees, prison inmates and those facing injustice, that the hope found in God's Word would sustain them. Pray too for the efforts to make God's Word available to the elderly. Pray also for the staff team led by CEO Eva Thomi, the Board and all partners, supporters and donors. Pray for strong and growing relationships with churches.

Germany Please pray that the OT translation of the Basic Bible in German would be completed this year and that the full Basic Bible would be published for the first time in 2020. Please pray that relationships with churches and donors would continue to strengthen and that fundraising for Bible Society projects around the world would increase. Pray for GS Christoph Rösler and the whole team.

MARCH 17-23

Pakistan Pray for ministry in this Muslim country where Bible work is difficult. Thank God for GS Anthony Lamuel and the whole team who have found several ways to share the Good News among people of other faiths. Pray for their translation work, sports ministry and literacy programmes. Pray too for their efforts to make the Bible accessible to children and young people.

India Pray for GS Mani Chacko who oversees the vast ministry in India which is divided into 16 Bible Society Auxiliaries. Pray for the many translation projects and the huge efforts to make the Bible available. Pray for the ministry to orphans and widows, for the distribution at festivals and for the close working relationship with the Churches in India. Pray for strong partnerships and ongoing provision.

Nepal Pray for the successful translation, production and distribution of the Nepali Bible and related materials for Nepali speakers. Pray for the Scripture engagement programmes, especially those developed through holistic ministries. Pray for enough funding so that all projects can be carried out in full. Pray for the team led by CEO Tej Jirel.

MARCH 24-30

Ukraine Praise God for the opening into hospitals to reach children who are gravely ill and their families. Pray for the work to reach people who are victims of conflict and lead them into reconciliation. Pray for the Scripture being distributed to the military and veterans in rehabilitation. Pray that God's Word would impact young people and children through summer camps. Pray for GS Oleksandr Babiychuk and all the efforts of the team.

Belarus Thank the Lord for the lack of obstacles to the spread of God's Word in 2018. Pray that the Scriptures distributed by the "Sowing Together" project will continue to touch the hearts of those in need. Pray that this project will be able to continue throughout 2019, reaching many who need encouragement and hope in times of need. Pray for Executive Director Igor Mikhailov and the small team.

Russia Give thanks for the work in this huge country led by Anatoly Rudenko. Pray for the translation projects that are ongoing in five different languages. Pray too for the work to translate the NT into Russian Sign Language. Pray for the distribution of Scripture to the remote people groups living in the Siberian region.

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

Bible-a-month Project March: Jordan

Only a very small minority of the people in Jordan are Christian. Society there is made up of people from many different nationalities and religions. A calm in the middle of the storm, Jordan has provided a sanctuary for many people from neighbouring countries who seek refuge from conflict. The Bible Society in Jordan has the opportunity to share the Bible with people from lots of different backgrounds. They have a great presence at national book fairs and work with churches to make the Bible available in various communities.

- Pray that all people in Jordan will be reached with God's Word and that children, adults, Jordanians and refugees will all discover who God is through the Bible.
- Pray for wisdom and protection for the staff of the Bible Society in Jordan who are working in public book fairs.
- Pray for all those in Jordan who are refugees. Pray that they will know God's loving presence at a very difficult time of their lives.



This month £5 will allow 2 people in Jordan to receive New Testaments.

Belgium (French) Pray for the work here led by GS Vincent Beckers as they sell and distribute God's Word. Pray that the projects implemented in recent years will continue to create an interest around the Word of God. Pray that good partnerships will be forged with the Church and other Christian organisations so that support will be generated for the spread of God's Word.

Belgium (Flemish) Pray for the team working to promote the Bible with the Flemish speaking population within Belgium. Pray for good opportunities to present the Bible Society ministry also. Give thanks for the strong partnership with the Bible Society in the Netherlands and the support that offers the team. Pray for the work to make the Bible available and engaging for children.

Netherlands Thank God for the 60 employees and 1,400 volunteers who work with passion and enthusiasm to bring the Bible closer to people. Pray for GS Rieuwerd Buitenwerf and the Board who direct the work. Pray for blessings on "Bible Basics," the Sunday School programme that helps children become familiar with 200 Bible stories. Pray too for successful fundraising efforts and strong awareness raising among supporters.

Ghana Pray for the Bono Bible translation project and other ongoing translations. Pray for ministry to children and young people including teenage girls who have suffered abuse. Pray that all who need Braille Bibles will have ready access. Ask for provision to see the work expand to other parts of the country. Pray for GS Erasmus Odonkor and the team working to make God's Word known.

Togo Give thanks for the team working here led by GS Estelle Akouegnon. Pray for the number of translation projects at different stages, that the teams would see God's hand in their progress, know good health and provision. Pray for the literacy programmes and FCBH groups in remote areas and prisons. Pray that many would come to faith through hearing God's Word.

Benin Ask for God's blessing on the Aja and Gun Bible translation teams. Pray that they would know good progress and much encouragement. Pray for the literacy classes in various languages and the FCBH listening groups. Pray that many vulnerable children would be blessed by the special distributions and that people with visual impairments would have access to Braille Scripture. Pray for GS Kancou Ogou and all who work along with him.

Bolivia Please ask the Lord to grant wisdom as the team seek the best strategies to bring the Word of God to distant locations. Pray that the Bolivian authorities do not enact laws contrary to God's Word. Ask that God's Word would reach and impact children, teenagers and women who have been victims of domestic violence. Pray for the team led by GS Fanny Cossío.

Paraguay Pray for the team led by Executive Director Pedro Escobar in the many ways they are reaching their nation. Pray for the medical boat that visits remote riverside people on the Paraguay River bringing health and spiritual care. Pray for the ministry to the armed forces and the work to reach children and young people with the message of the Bible.

Brazil Thank God for the success of the 2nd Year of the Bible last year in Brazil. Thank God for the success of the New Almeida updated translation and pray that the Study Bible would lead readers into a deeper relationship with God. Pray for the Executive Director Erní Seibert, the Board of Directors and staff as they develop the work. Pray that their outreach programmes will reach many.

Botswana Give thanks for the team led by GS Gabriel Tsuaneng as they work to make the Bible known. Pray for the ministry to the army, that God's Word would soak into the hearts of many. Ask for God's ongoing provision and blessing on the translation and literacy development work for both the Shiyeyi and Kalanga languages.

Zimbabwe Please pray for this Bible Society's 80th anniversary in 2019. Pray for the completion and launch of the Shona Study Bible translation project this year and other ongoing translations. Pray also for the project to distribute Scripture in suitable formats to people with visual impairments. Ask for wisdom as they seek ways to increase their distribution efforts. Pray for GS Chipó Maringe and team.

Namibia Please pray for the work of the Bible Society in a very volatile economy. Pray for funds for the translation of the new Bible into Oshiwambo and other translation projects. Pray too for their fundraising initiatives. Pray also for GS Barnie Van Der Walt and all the staff. Give thanks for every donor, prayer partner and friend of the Bible Society.

Did you know that you can see this prayer material on our website at www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/get-involved/pray/

Bible-a-month Project April: China

There is a huge demand for Bibles in China. People long to have their own Bible to read and study, but poverty can so easily stand in their way. Bible Societies are working in partnership with the Amity Printing Press in Nanjing, China to make Scripture more affordable. By covering the cost of the paper that is used to print Bibles, the finished books can be sold at a much-reduced price or given out for free to those that need it. The simple action of paying for paper means more people in China are receiving the Bible they've been waiting for.

- Pray for more Bibles. Pray that the funding would be received to cover the cost of the printing paper and that more Bibles would be able to be printed.
- Pray that Bibles would continue to be distributed all over China, reaching people in both cities and rural areas.
- Pray that every person who receives a Bible would have a deeper understanding of who God is and that lives would be transformed.



This month £5 will give a Bible to someone in China.

APRIL 28 - MAY 4

Algeria Praise God for the opportunities to distribute God's Word, mainly through churches or to those responding to TV or Radio Broadcasts. Pray for Executive Secretary Ali Khidri and his colleague as they work with Christians who are often under threat. Pray that they would know God's hand of protection, His provision and constant encouragement as they faithfully serve Him. Pray for new doors to open in this difficult place.

Morocco Ask for God's blessing on those who work here. Pray for the translation, publication and distribution of Scripture for various audiences. Pray that the Bible Society in Morocco would know strong partnership with the Church and that they would work hand in hand to encourage and help one another share the Word of God.

MAY 5 - 11

Burkina Faso Thank the Lord for the launch and good implementation of the Trauma Healing Programme and pray that this will impact many people with the message of God's hope. Pray for the team led by GS Dramane Yankiné as they work on a number of translations at different stages. Pray for the publishing of new Scripture and plans to dedicate and distribute these.

Mali Bible Society ministry in Mali is led by Executive Secretary Jacques Dembélé.

Pray for the teams working on a number of translation projects as well as the Bible distribution for different audiences. Ask the Lord to use the Trauma Healing programme to restore hope to many and pray that FCBH would bring God's Word alive to people in listening groups throughout the country.

MAY 12 - 18

Rwanda Please pray for the local fundraising strategy to encourage local support for Bible ministry in Rwanda. Pray that Church members would support the Bible Cause. Pray for the Trauma Healing, FCBH and literacy groups which are all bringing God's Word alive for people in different circumstances. Ask God to work through the Scripture being placed with young people who are in refugee camps and detention centres. Pray for the team led by GS Therese Mukamakuza.

Uganda GS Simon Mukhama leads the ministry here which includes a number of translation projects at various stages. Pray for good progress so that many more people will soon have access to the Bible. Pray too for the Trauma Healing and FCBH programmes as well as the ambitious plan to place a Bible in every hand. Pray also for the work to redevelop Bible House, to enable the ministry to increase.

Burundi Pray for the team led by GS Marjorie Niyungeko and the Board, partners and supporters of the Bible Society. Pray for provision and blessing on the

work to produce a Kirundi Study Bible. Ask God to use the FCBH, Alpha and Good Samaritan programmes to impact lives with His presence. Pray that all who want to access the Bible will be able to do so in a format they can understand.

MAY 19 - 25

Micronesia Pray for the work to make the Bible available across 600 inhabited islands which adds to the cost of importing and transporting Scripture. Many cannot afford the high cost of the Bibles so please pray for funds to subsidise the cost so that no-one is without God's Word. Pray for Perry Cartera who manages the team who work out of the Philippines to make the Bible available on these islands.

Papua New Guinea The main focus of the work here is translation. With 840 languages spoken, there are many who are still waiting. Currently, the Bible Society is running 8 translation projects and partnering with other agencies on a further 14. Pray for all those who work on translation, for provision, health and safety. Locations are remote and travel can be challenging and electricity is not always reliable.

Indonesia Pray for the completion of the Indonesian Bible revision to be published in 2020. Pray for the "New Bible Readers" programme and for successful distribution to all regions. Pray that the Parenting Bible, launching this September, will have a huge impact. Pray too that God's Word will touch

children and young people. Pray that the publication of the Rote and Yali Nania Bibles this year will change many lives. GS Sigit Triyono leads the work.

MAY 26 - JUNE 1

Cambodia Pray for Executive Director Pisit Heng and the team who reach many with God's Word. Pray for the literacy classes and Bible distribution reaching the most remote areas. Pray for the listening groups and partnerships with churches. Ask God to impact many children and young people who are receiving Scripture. Pray for provision and good partnerships to enable the ministry to grow.

Vietnam Ask for God's protection and blessings on the development of several projects reaching the hard-of-hearing, illiterate people and ethnic minorities. Pray also for growing relationships with the Churches in the country. Pray too for translation into new languages and distribution to remote areas. Executive Director Vu Hoang Anh Le leads the team.

Thailand Ask God to help the teams who are working on the Study Bible and Thai Sign Languages. Pray for their health and that God would raise up more people who can work in similar roles. Praise God that a 2nd print-run of 10,000 Bibles is needed for schools. Pray that God will provide to make this possible this year. Pray for the whole team led by GS Seree Lorgunpai.

Bible-a-month Project May: Bulgaria

Each child who lives in an orphanage in Bulgaria needs to know that their Father God loves them. They have been left without parents or have parents who are unable to look after them. Many are living in very bad conditions and aren't receiving the care that they need. The Bulgarian Bible Society is making sure that these children are known and loved. They are working in partnership with other organisations to provide them with shoes, food, clothes and Bibles.

- Pray for all the children and young people who are living in orphanages in Bulgaria, that they would know that God their Father loves and cares for them.
- Pray for the Bulgarian Bible Society and volunteers who are visiting the orphanages to share the Word of God; pray that they would see joy and peace in the kids that they work with.
- Pray for the staff working in the orphanages, that they would also be touched by the message that is shared.



This month £5 will give a Children's Bible and colouring book to an orphan in Bulgaria.

Translation Update

The last edition of Word at Work featured an article on 'Our Role in Bible Translation' in which we shared some of the projects around the world that we are helping to support. One partner is the Bible Society in India who are running 20 translation projects simultaneously. You can imagine our delight when we heard that one of these languages had reached a milestone.

One day in the summer, hundreds of Kaipeng Christians in northeast India gathered to celebrate the launch of the very first New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs in their language. So many people came that many had to peer through windows to witness the arrival of God's Word in their language. After the ceremony, people queued to purchase copies, many taking several copies to give to family and friends.

One person at the gathering proclaimed, 'Having the Word of God is a great achievement... it will help us draw closer to God.'



A covered overflow at the launch of the Kaipeng New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs in East India.

Migrants Meet Jesus

The Bible Society in the Gulf (BSG) focuses much of their energy reaching the huge population of migrant workers. Their days are long and hard, they are away from their families and live with 6-8 people packed into one room with shared kitchen and bathroom facilities. They work and sleep with no time for much of anything else. Yousef, our colleague in Kuwait recently shared some incredible testimonies with us from a recent visit to a migrant compound. The Bible Society team brought Bibles and MegaVoice players (small listening device holding Bible readings) and shared a message from God's Word. Many men gave testimony to the hope they find in these visits and in the Word of God.

Romany, a migrant worker said, "This MegaVoice Player helped me a lot. Now, I spend most of the day listening to the Word of God. It is always with me. I can share God's Story with others now. It is of great help for people like me who don't know how to read or write. So grateful for the BSG ministry."



Many migrant workers are finding great hope as they listen to God's Word on MegaVoice players.

National Bible Society of Ireland News

After several years without any staff we are pleased to report that a new Development Officer, Julia McKinley, has been appointed for the National Bible Society of Ireland.

We are delighted that our sister Bible Society in the Republic of Ireland is at the beginning of a new chapter of its ministry and wish them every success and blessing in this. We are looking forward to working with Julia as we seek to reach out to churches, groups and individuals across the island of Ireland with the Bible.

Please join us in praying for Julia and for the members of the Board who have worked hard to get to this point. Pray for new opportunities and for the development of the work again in the Republic of Ireland.



Life and Ministry of Dina Katanacho

An Arab Israeli Christian Woman in Leadership

In August last year we welcomed Dina Katanacho to Northern Ireland. Dina is the General Secretary of the Arab Israeli Bible Society and she is based in Nazareth.

Dina was here as part of the Bangor Worldwide Missionary Convention and spoke to a ladies event and also in the main evening celebration on Friday 31st August.

There are three Bible Societies in the Holy Lands: the Arab Israeli, the Israeli and the Palestinian. They minister to very distinct groups within the region but also collaborate on specific projects. There are many similarities between the Holy Land and our context especially when we consider identity. Dina shared very powerfully about her identity which shapes and influences her work.

Dina is a Christian. Christians are in the minority in the Holy Land, less than 1.5% of the population, the place where Jesus was born, carried out His ministry, died and was resurrected.

Dina is also a Palestinian, an Arab and an Israeli. We might have stereotypes about all of these labels – what comes to mind when you hear these labels? These labels are to do with culture, the way that Dina's family cook and how they celebrate important life events. Dina was born in the state of Israel, which makes her an Israeli citizen, but previous generations of her family were Palestinian and didn't leave after the creation of Israel in 1948.

In addition to this Dina is a woman serving in a patriarchal society. Women face many challenges in the Middle East. 70% of the people attending churches are women but they often don't have

the opportunities to lead or make a difference in their context. Dina stands out in this context as the leader of the Bible Society working alongside church leaders who are usually male.

Our thanks to Bangor Worldwide Missionary Convention for their generous support.

With all this in mind Dina says that there are great opportunities for the Bible Society to bring the Word of God to society and to build bridges of peace between the Hebrew and Arabic cultures in a place often associated with turbulence and violence.

The Arab Israeli Bible Society run events for leaders from churches; they reach out to marginalised groups in their society and they reach out to people with hope and with love through the Bible. Dina says, "To do small things with great love is what matters, to be faithful in what God has given us".

We have supported the ministry of the Arab Israeli Bible Society with funding for their core activities. Please pray for this important work bringing the Word of God alive to many people in the Holy Land.



Catherine with Dina Katanacho on her visit to Northern Ireland in August 2018.



Dina shared at the Bangor Worldwide Missionary Convention about her work as the General Secretary of the Arab Israeli Bible Society.



Dina (second from left), with staff from a women's refuge in Israel.



The Arab Israeli Bible Society work with mothers and teenagers to explore biblical themes of family, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Reflections on Jordan

Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen is the current Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. He and his wife Barbara had the opportunity to visit Jordan in August last year. The following are Dr McMullen's reflections on his brief visit to the Bible Society of Jordan.

As Moderator of the General Assembly, I had the pleasure of visiting the Bible Society of Jordan at the beginning of August. My wife Barbara and I enjoyed warm hospitality in the society offices, where we were also given an excellent presentation highlighting work in the schools and general outreach.

Barbara and I were inspired by the vision, courage, commitment and enthusiasm of the entire team. They have a real passion for making Jesus known and for the different denominations to work much more closely together.

Many refugee families are being looked after by the Bible Society of Jordan, which is helping with accommodation, providing food to eat and offering trauma counselling, where necessary. We saw such inspiring examples of holistic care and courage to reach out to others in spite of overwhelming odds.

We spent a gruelling day visiting three Christian families who had fled for their lives from Iraq. A mother with three children, so traumatised after a bruising encounter with ISIS that she still cannot talk about the experience, yet her lively youngest child in particular was so full of life. I read Isaiah 61 and prayed as we prepared to leave - the Lord bestowing on his loved ones a crown of beauty instead of ashes and

the oil of gladness instead of mourning.

Later we found ourselves in a rooftop "apartment", so spartan with faulty electrics and a leaking roof. A teacher of English literature laughed as she shared her love of Jane Austen and Agatha Christie. It would have been good if she had been able to lose herself in Jane Eyre rather than telling us about escaping from Qaraqosh. Again, there was trauma counselling from the Bible Society, but also food parcels. I read from Ephesians 3 about being rooted and established in love.

At our third house, we met a family, partly scattered across Europe with some stranded here because of passport fraudsters. There was no mistaking their faith as I read Psalm 139, a picture of God's complete care even in the darkest places.

Did I take in the enormity of each story? There was such brokenness, but also forgiveness: laughter through the tears; hope in the midst of despair; generous hospitality, although they had nothing to give. My own faith seemed so shallow as I read, and yet God's Word is always relevant and powerful. As I left these three homes, another Scripture came to mind: having nothing and yet possessing everything. (2 Corinthians 6.10)



Dr Charles McMullen and his wife Barbara had a memorable visit to the Bible Society of Jordan.



Dr McMullen (second left) and Barbara (third from right) met General Secretary Munther Namat and some of the team.



A visit to a refugee family in their rooftop apartment. Behind smiling faces and warm hearts lie traumatic stories of escape from terror.

"We are deeply grateful for the time we were given by the Society and the insights gained. The Bible Society is making such a huge difference!"

Spring Appeal

Reading What You Cannot See

When you can't see words on a page, how do you read the Bible? This question was asked at a Boy's Brigade meeting in County Down recently. The boys shouted out different answers... "get someone to read it to you!", "listen to it on a CD!", "use braille!". All very valid answers, and all ways that Bible Societies are using to help people who are visually impaired engage with God's Word.

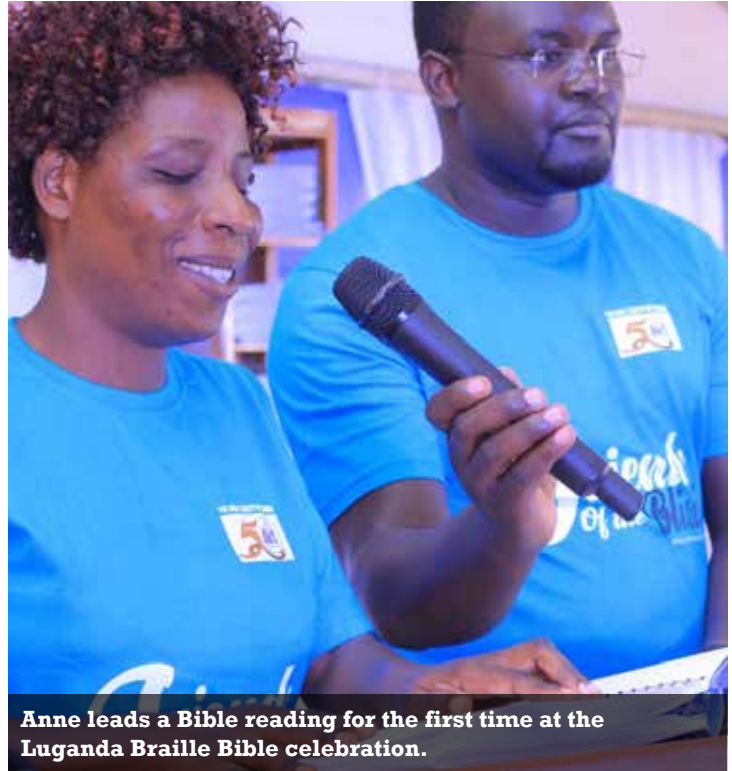
In this edition of Word at Work we want to concentrate on braille and tell you how one Bible Society is reaching out to their blind friends.

Bible Society of Uganda: Friends of the Blind

Several years ago, the Bible Society of Uganda set up 'Friends of the Blind'. It was a way of directly engaging with and serving people with visual impairments, and it has developed into an amazing, collaborative ministry. It is founded on a desire to reach out and include this group of people in a society that so often ignores and excludes those who are visually impaired. The Bible Society wants to show them that they are loved and accepted by sharing the good news of Jesus with them.

Approximately 2.6 million people (6% of the population) in Uganda are visually impaired or blind. They have one of the highest rates of visual impairment in the world. There are various reasons for this sight loss, but measles and cataracts are common causes.

The Bible Society of Uganda has been sharing the Word of God in braille with children and adults who are blind. They've also been working with churches to help them think about how they could better include people who are visually impaired.



Anne leads a Bible reading for the first time at the Luganda Braille Bible celebration.



A young boy who is visually impaired learns how to read braille.

The Luganda Braille Bible

Recently there was celebration in Uganda. Luganda speakers received the Bible in braille for the very first time. This became the 45th language in the world to have a complete braille Bible. Over the next number of years, the Bible Society of Uganda will be working to make the Bible available in braille in more of their country's languages.

At a 'Friends of the Blind' symposium the new Luganda Braille Bible was dedicated. Many people came to celebrate the occasion and see this first Bible stacked on the stage. The Luganda Braille Bible comes in 40 large books. It has taken much investment of time and money to produce this Bible.

Dancing, singing and Bible reading filled the room as people expressed their joy at having a Bible that they could read with their fingers. People would no longer need to rely on someone reading the Bible to them – they could touch the page and read it for themselves.

Ingrid Felber-Bischof coordinates United Bible Societies' work to serve people with visual disabilities. She tells us, "It is a precious moment to witness when a Bible in braille is released for the first time. We can feel and share the excitement and joy of our blind friends as they touch and read God's Word with their fingers. We have heard from blind readers all over the world that there is nothing comparable to this. They tell us it is the moment when they feel nearest to God's heart."

"I craved a Bible..."

Alex is a student in Uganda. His words express what it means for someone to receive a Bible in braille:

"I craved a Bible which I could study in silence without the distraction audio books entail. I was humbled when I received a rather priceless fully braille Bible from The Bible Society of Uganda. The gesture was indeed overwhelming, I could have as well been resigned to my fate; troubling someone to read and re-read to me Bible verses. My days of inconveniencing others are over. I now can study the Word of God without relying on another's sight. So far at least, Mark's Gospel is my best!"

Will you be a friend of the blind?

The Bible Society of Uganda is visiting schools to give braille Scripture to the pupils. They are also travelling to very remote areas to deliver Bibles. They believe it is so important to go to these people, wherever they might be, to make the effort to show them just how much they are valued and loved. They need your help.

Your gift today could give someone in Uganda the opportunity to read God's Word for the first time. £5 could give a Bible book in braille to a school pupil who reads best with their fingers.

Providing a complete braille Bible is expensive but so important. **It costs £400 to print a Luganda Braille Bible.** The 40 large books that this would print would be a life changing gift for someone in Uganda.

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



A pupil reads a book of the Bible with her fingers.



For many people who are blind, reading braille with their fingers is the best way to engage with God's Word.

Bible-a-month 2019

Our Bible-a-month calendar gives you the opportunity to learn how the Bible is being shared in 12 different countries. Each month we ask you to pray for the work that you read about and give a gift of a Bible to someone in that country.

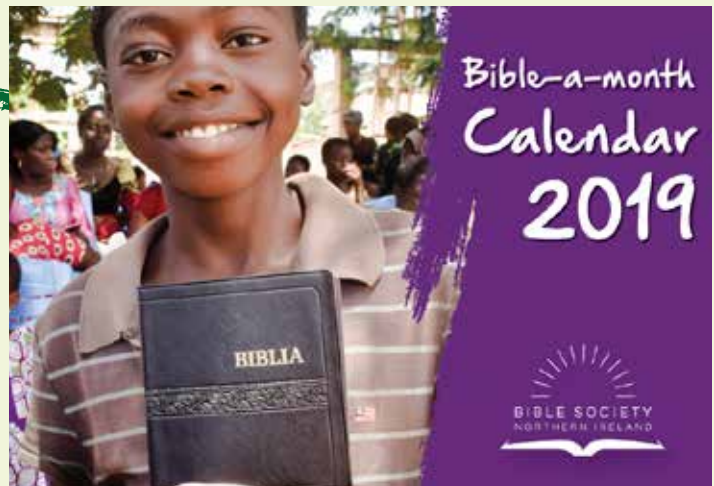
By giving just £5 each month you will be giving Scripture to many different people:

- In January, £5 will give a Bible to a kid in primary school in Ghana
- In May, £5 will give a Children's Bible and a colouring book to an orphan in Bulgaria
- In July, £5 will give New Testaments to 4 people living in slums in India
- In August, £5 will give a Bible to a family in Malawi
- In September, £5 will give a Bible to a police officer in Honduras
- In October, £5 will give a Bible Storybook to a child living in poverty in Peru

You can make a difference every month by sharing the life changing Word of God.

Ask for your 2019 calendar today.

Fill in and return the cover sheet that came with your magazine, or email info@biblesocietyni.co.uk to ask for a calendar



Peru

Children in Peru are going hungry. Families are poor and parents are unable to feed their children. The 'Bread of Life' project has been a huge blessing to so many families. Children are invited to church and given a nutritious breakfast. A cup of warm milk and bread with jam can give kids the start to the day that they need. It might be the only meal they get that day.

While kids get physically fed they also get spiritually fed. They hear about Jesus and take part in his activities and games. They learn how to pray and sing and each child gets given their very own Bible Storybook.

Your £5 will give a Bible Storybook to a child in Peru.

OCTOBER 2019

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

1 Month of Devoted Bible Study

"For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your house." Matthew 25:35

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