



Count on it

Living in the certainty of God's Word

Parish newsletter

'When people are in difficult situations, I counsel and pray with them,' says Arulraj Kovil Pillai, a chaplain to migrant workers in Dubai. 'The most exciting thing is seeing people's lives changing when they are exposed to the Gospel.'

Dubai lies in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Its oil fields have made it one of the richest places on earth. And the combination of oil and tourism has attracted an influx of migrant workers.

Today, more than three quarters of the UAE's population is made up of migrant or expatriate workers.

But because work is demanding and workers are isolated from their families for years at a time, it can become an overwhelming life.

That's where Bible Society comes in bringing hope, support and encouragement through the Gospel. Arulraj is sharing the gospel with around 600 labourers drawn by the area's vast construction projects.

On Bible Sunday, we have the chance to remember people like Arulraj and the men and women among whom they work.

This year's theme – Count on It – is taken from Isaiah 55.1-11. Isaiah gave this message to the people of Israel when they were in exile in Babylon. They'd been there for 70 years and were losing confidence in the God who was to deliver them to their own land.

Isaiah is reminding them that this is not the end of the journey and that they can have confidence in their God to fulfil his promises for the future.

This message is as relevant to us today as it was to the Israelites thousands of years ago. It helps us to rediscover the living certainties of God's Word in times of trouble.

Today, Bible Society is bringing the knowledge of the fact that you can count on God's word to millions of people around the world, including migrant workers both at home and abroad.

And for us in the UK, it's also a wonderful reminder of the security we can find in God's word during the recession. Uncertainty seems to reign around us, but God's promises to us still hold firm. We can count on them.

So thank you for taking part in Bible Sunday. We hope that it will be a blessing to you and your congregation. And, by being part of this national event you are also helping to bring the transforming Word of God to millions of people around the world. And that's priceless.

Alan Kember
Bible Society