



PRAYER
in action

B
BIBLE
SOCIETY

March – June 2014

MARCH – a focus on education

Sharing stories with the next generation

More than 250,000 children now regularly hear the Bible's stories in school. *Open the Book* (WIA p4) sees volunteers from local churches retelling stories to primary school children as part of assembly time. It's a simple idea, but it couldn't be more effective.

'To get a group of people, dressed up in bed sheets and with tea towels on their heads, and get them to share the Bible with children...' said one volunteer, Sue Hughes. 'If you were sitting in a strategy meeting, you would never come up with this. It shouldn't work. But the fact that it does suggests it must be God's plan.'

2–8 MARCH

PLEASE PRAY:

- Give thanks that so many children are hearing the Bible at school through this project – and enjoying it! Thank God for the throng of 10,000 volunteer Bible storytellers who are committed to sharing the story.
- For the expansion of *Open the Book*. The vision is for every child to hear the story of the Bible in their primary years at school. That means getting into all 18,280 primary schools in the country.



photo: Bible Society/Layton Thompson

9–15 MARCH

PLEASE PRAY:

- For eight-year-old Callum (right), who said, 'The stories in the Bible are good because they teach you things. The story of David and Goliath was about being brave, and Jonah and the whale tells us you should do what people ask you to do.'
- For Sue Hughes (right), and volunteers like her, who visit schools every week to share the Bible with children. Pray for creativity, energy and enjoyment, and give thanks that they, too, are blessed by their involvement with *Open the Book*.
- For *Open the Book* staff Dianne Brookes (WIA p15), Julie Jeffries and Val Ralston as they seek to expand the project to reach more children.



16–22 MARCH

PLEASE PRAY:

- For our *Pass It On* campaign. The campaign, launched in February, encourages parents to give their children a 'Bible bedtime' by reading a Bible story alongside other storybooks.
- Give thanks that parents see the value of sharing the Bible with their children. Pray we'd be able to help young mums and dads know where to start.
- For Ben Whitnall (WIA p15) leading the campaign for Bible Society.

23–29 MARCH

PLEASE PRAY:

- For the impact of Crossrefit for English Literature students (crossrefit.info). Pray that students would better understand the influence of the Bible in our literature, language and culture.
- A new study guide on Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* has just been launched. Pray that it will work well and attract more students to the resource.
- Give thanks that last year, almost 700,000 people visited the Crossref-it website.

Bible on the beach and the Scriptures in Swindon

There's nothing like a bit of theatre to bring a story to life – and that's what we've been doing over the last year to open up the Bible to people who might never have heard it before.

To start with, a group of actors dressed as Jesus and his disciples caused a stir on Brighton beach when they re-enacted Jesus' miracle of feeding the 5,000 by handing out prawn, tuna and salmon sandwiches.

Then at Christmas, two camels and a tiny baby were part of the ensemble that helped to retell the nativity story for shoppers in Swindon.

This Easter, we're again supporting Wintershall's *The Passion of Jesus* in London's Trafalgar Square (WIA p10).



Photo: Bible Society/Clare Kendall

30 MARCH–5 APRIL

PLEASE PRAY:

- Thank God for the great opportunities to share the Bible with beachgoers, shoppers, and people who might never before have considered the Bible.
- That those who saw or were part of the re-enactments would reflect on the experience, be curious, and start to engage with the Scriptures.
- For creativity in new ways to open up the Bible for those who have never heard or read it before.

6–12 APRIL

PLEASE PRAY:

- Give thanks that Bible Society has been given the opportunity to partner with Spring Harvest, a major Christian festival, over the next few years.
- For the launch of our new campaign, *The Big Mission*, at Spring Harvest this week. Please pray that the campaign will help reach children with the Bible.
- That *The Big Mission* campaign will inspire, move and challenge more Christians to join us in our mission to offer the Bible to the world.



Photo: Bible Society/Claire Kendall

20–26 APRIL

PLEASE PRAY:

- For the growing impact and success of our short film competition, *The Pitch*. Pray for 2013 winner Aurora Fearnley (WIA p3) as she shoots her sci-fi film, *Pulsar*, based on the book of Jonah.
- For Luke Walton, who runs the competition, and is helping to launch *The Pitch* in Jamaica this year.
- For previous *Pitch* winner Rob McLellan who has recently moved to LA to work with MGM on a sci-fi film, *Abe*. Give thanks for this outcome and that along the way he's explored and engaged with Scripture. Pray for his future.

13–19 APRIL

PLEASE PRAY:

- For *The Passion of Jesus* performed by Wintershall. Pray the actors would bring the Easter story alive powerfully for the audience.
- Pray for good weather, and the safe and smooth running of the performances.
- For all those who will be watching *The Passion of Jesus* live in Trafalgar Square, London, and particularly for those not familiar with the story.
- Pray that those watching will be touched and moved, prompted to ask questions and find out more.

27 APRIL–3 MAY

PLEASE PRAY:

- Give thanks for the work in Parliament, as Mark Harris runs events, leads Bible studies and supports MPs and Peers.
- For organisation of the *National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast* which takes place in June. Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby will be speaking on the theme, 'Global Christianity'.
- For Mark as he continues to meet MPs and Peers, and establishes new contacts around Parliament.

One teenager's journey

A new visitor centre is set to open this year which reveals how a teenage girl's journey inspired the founding of a global movement still going strong today.

Mary Jones World in Llanycil, near Bala, Wales, is due to open in October (WIA p8) – and building work is well underway. It is hoped the centre, in St Beuno's Church (below), will attract thousands of visitors each year, and will reveal the significance of the Bible in Wales and around the world.

Please pray for this – and also for the Christian Resources Exhibition (CRE International) in Sandown this month.



4–10 MAY

PLEASE PRAY:

- For the building work at St Beuno's church. Pray that it will be transformed into a place where people can come and encounter the Bible and appreciate its impact in Wales and the world.
- For project manager Ian Walden, who is involved in developing the exhibition and overseeing the building work.
- For a successful opening day on 5 October, the 200th anniversary of the death of Thomas Charles, the Welsh clergyman who helped found Bible Society.
- For the thousands of people who visit north Wales each year. Pray that many would visit *Mary Jones World* and experience the Bible, perhaps for the first time.

11–17 MAY

PLEASE PRAY:

- For the success of CRE at Sandown. Pray that visitors would find advice, ideas, encouragement and a wide range of resources.
- That seminars and workshops, as well as performances by theatre companies, worship leaders and comedians, would inspire and refresh people.
- That the event would generate positive media coverage.



Photo: Bible Society/Evan L Dodson



18–24 MAY

PLEASE PRAY:

- Give thanks that proposals for the *Mary Jones World* have been well received around Bala. Pray that the right local person would be found to manage the centre, and that volunteers would come forward to help at peak times.
- For Dai Woolridge, who became Bible Society's Church & Volunteer Manager in Wales, in January 2014. Pray for him as he inspires people about our mission to offer the Bible to the world.

25–31 MAY

PLEASE PRAY:

- Thank God for the expansion of *Open the Book* in Anglesey, Wales. Archdeacon of Bangor Paul Davies said, 'It simply came from nowhere and grew through one community telling another. Suddenly we had not just enthusiasm, but teams in schools. It's just been fantastic.'
- That the translation of *Open the Book* material into Welsh will mean more schools can get involved.

JUNE – a focus on the Bible in different formats

Bible at their fingertips

Blindness, illiteracy, poverty and disability are all things that keep the Bible shut for people around the world.

Our mission is to overcome those challenges – and give everyone the opportunity to read and engage with the Scriptures for themselves.

In Uganda, we're printing and distributing Braille Bibles so blind and visually impaired people can access the Bible through schools or community groups (WIA p12).

Elsewhere, we're supplying *Proclaimers* – small audio players that are loaded with the New Testament in local languages. Listening groups gather round to listen each week – and it brings the Bible to life for them.

1–7 JUNE

PLEASE PRAY:

- For Bernard (WIA p12) who lost his sight aged 12. He says the Bible changed his life: 'Because of what I read in the Bible, I know that God can do anything.' Pray for him as he shares his testimony to inspire others.
- There are around 300,000 people with visual impairments in Uganda. Pray the Bible will be opened up to many of them, and they will discover the Scriptures for themselves.

8–14 JUNE

PLEASE PRAY:

- For the team at Bible Society of Uganda. Pray for wisdom and courage to challenge the stigma around this disability.
- For Simon Peter Mukhama, who leads Bible work in Uganda, as he makes decisions about where to direct his limited resources.

15–21 JUNE

PLEASE PRAY:

- For churches here taking part in the *Proclaimer* Challenge, to help provide more *Proclaimers* to illiterate communities around the world. Pray that many churches would get involved.
- Give thanks that technology can open up the Bible to people in the most remote places, through devices like the *Proclaimer*.

22 - 28 JUNE

PLEASE PRAY:

- For all those who engage with the Bible through social media. Pray for fresh ideas to open up Scripture online.
- Give thanks for volunteers who spend hours typing out Bibles so they can be digitalised and put online. Pray for continued perseverance and commitment.