



hello world volunteers in Cambodia on their recent mission trip



IN THIS ISSUE we hear from hello world, Bible Society's all-round experience for 18–30 year olds. The young volunteers have just returned from a mission trip to Cambodia and have written a wonderful article about their experience visiting our literacy classes. We also have a story from an Alpha conference in Jerusalem where we hear that God is a God of surprises.

You can read about the completion of a new Vietnamese translation which, thanks to your generous support over the last five decades, has finally been distributed. Whether you've supported us for these 50 years or joined us 50 days ago we praise God for your faithful support which is allowing people across the world to experience the Bible for the first time.

**John Ranford**  
Bible a Month Co-ordinator



Photo © Grace Smithy/Bible Society



by Harriett Anderson –  
hello world volunteer

WAKING UP TO BRIGHT SUNSHINE, I can hear the hum of the city as I open my window and look down onto the streets below. People are already hard at work. Motorbikes precariously balance items for delivery and tuk tuks weave their way through parasoled street sellers, tin-shacked houses and lush green palms. This is Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital city and home to the country's head office for Bible Society.

This morning we will visit Kompong Speu, a village just outside the city, where we run a literacy programme which has been set up in response to the massive social challenge of illiteracy. In rural areas, the illiteracy rate

is almost 90 per cent; just one of the tragic consequences of the country's difficult past of war and genocide.

Here, we will distribute glasses donated by Bible Society staff and supporters, in the hope that we can enable those in the class who have difficulty with their eyesight. The literacy students meet five days a week for one hour a day. Upon graduation from the course they receive their very own New Testament.

Warm smiling faces greeted us as we arrived at the literacy class. We took off our shoes and walked barefoot into a small community hall. The class is made up of middle-aged and elderly



# Bible Society in focus



We are thrilled to be the main sponsors of Spring Harvest for another year. We will be there throughout the whole event and across the different venues with a stand, ready to welcome supporters old and new, and to tell more people about Bible a Month.

Paula Gooder, our Theologian in Residence, is also going to be returning and leading Bible readings. She said, 'I'm really excited to be going back to Spring Harvest again this year to do the Bible Readings at Minehead 1. We're going to be looking at Ephesians 3.14–21 and thinking about all that God has given us and how we might live lives that live up to his great gift to us.'

Bible Society will also be running the spiritual formation stream, featuring lyfe, at Minehead 1 and Minehead 2.

There are still spaces available so do book yourself a place and come and share in Ephesians. It would be great to see you there.

[springharvest.org](http://springharvest.org)



Photo © Bible Society

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women. (I assume that all the men are out at work.)

At the end of the class we were given the opportunity to pray with a group of women and hear more of their stories and the difference that this class is making.

Eighty four year-old Son Ly told us how the literacy class has changed her life, not only is she now able to read, she has been reading the Bible as part of the class and as a result has given

her life to Jesus. The literacy class has also had a great impact on its surrounding community; parents are able to help children with school work and labourers are not scared of being cheated by customers anymore.

Through your support these woman have a better future and a hope for their family and as they read the Bible they encounter the hope that Christ brings.



On graduating the literacy class 84-year-old Son Ly received glasses and a New Testament

Photo © Grace Smith/ Bible Society

## DINA KATANACHO FEEDS BACK ON JERUSALEM'S ALPHA CONFERENCE

With the situation in Jerusalem so uncertain I didn't know whether to go ahead with an Alpha conference which trains small Arab churches in Jerusalem to run Alpha courses. I knew that many people would be afraid to come and I worried about leaving my family, in Nazareth, to go to a place of conflict. After praying I was confident the event should go ahead. Filled with expectation and uncertainty I went to Jerusalem, expecting very few people to turn up.

But God is a God of surprises! Despite the risk of bombs nearly everybody came, over 30 people. One pastor said, 'The biggest challenge as a minister is to work alone in the field of ministry – this training has supported me to reach and recruit people to help in ministry.'

We were even more surprised to find that there were non-Christians there. As we discussed how Alpha courses help people experience God, three women said, 'we haven't experienced the light of God ourselves'. So we prayed with the women, asking God to reveal himself to them. Seeing these women earnestly seeking God made the risks worth it.

Please pray for the three women and for the churches in Jerusalem. Pray that Alpha courses will be held and that they will help communities to experience God.



A big turnout to Jerusalem's Alpha Conference

Photo © Arab Israeli/ Bible Society

# Bible a month

February 2015

Thank you for helping others to encounter the Bible.

## CAMBODIA

Photo © Grace Smith, Bible Society



17-year-old Srey Neang at Cambodia's youth Praise Festival

Cambodia's post-genocide generation still struggle with forgiveness and reconciliation. But Bible Society is dedicated to bringing hope and forgiveness to this nation through the powerful message of the Bible.

15 November 2014 saw this happen on a vast scale. Over 2,500 Christians gathered

together for the Christian Youth Festival, organised by local Bible Society staff, five volunteers from hello world, and worship leaders.

The Praise Festival stage manager said, 'The transformation that took place in young people's hearts tonight was incredible to witness. The Holy Spirit was felt.' This was echoed by 17-year-old Srey Neang, who said, 'I have been too relaxed in my faith, but God has never forsaken me. He is such a loving forgiving God. The Bible is the word of God and is powerful and life-changing, just as it's written in 2 Timothy 3:16. I'll read it every day with a new passion.'

The Praise Festival not only introduced people to the ministry of Bible Society; 250 Bibles were purchased and twice as many Scripture portions.

## PRAYER POINTERS

- Give thanks for the Praise Concert. Pray for this young generation, that their thirst for knowledge of the Bible increases.
- April 2015 marks 40 years since the start of the Khmer Rouge genocide. Bible Society, in partnership with local church leaders, will be hosting the Forgiveness & Reconciliation Art Performance on 28 March 2015 in Phnom Penh. Through this project, Bible Society hopes to help Cambodians acknowledge the recent history of their nation, allowing them to forgive and be reconciled through God's love. Pray that the event will spark change in individuals, families and communities all over the nation.
- In early 2013 Bible Society was asked to publish a Study Bible that is non-denominational, the Khmer Study Bible project. Pray for the translation team as they work through study notes, for strength, wisdom and discernment.
- *Learning through Listening* Literacy project has been an ongoing part of the ministry of Bible Society in Cambodia for over a decade. However, thousands still remain illiterate around Cambodia. Please pray for the programme as it continue to share the gospel.

To discover other ways in which we offer the Bible to the world visit [biblesociety.org.uk](http://biblesociety.org.uk)

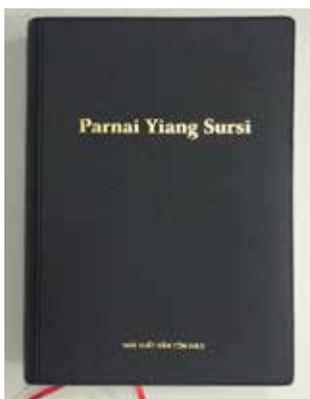
# Bible a month

March 2015

Thank you for your faithful prayers.

## VIETNAM

Photo © Vietnamese Bible Society



The Vietnamese Bru Bible

'OUR WAIT IS OVER. The Bible is finally here! Thank you Jesus,' said an elderly Bru pastor as the first ever Bible in Bru was delivered to his Vietnamese ethnic hill tribe. Translation began in 1963 by a missionary couple from SIL. During the Vietnam War the translation project came to a halt. The missionaries were

arrested and imprisoned by the communists who destroyed all the manuscripts in 1975. After the war the translation restarted and now, thanks to your support, it is completed.

This is the first time that this ethnic group have seen the Bible in their heart language.

Over 3,000 Bibles were transported on people's backs up the mountain trail. But Bible Society staff and the missionary couple were asked to stay on the outskirts as it is too risky for Christians to be seen out in the open. Due to legal restrictions, only 3,000 copies have been printed, though the latest census registered over 200,000 Christians among the Bru hill tribes.

## PRAYER POINTERS

- Give thanks for the completion of the Bru Bible. Please pray for Christians in the Bru Hill tribe as they receive the Bible for the first time. Pray that they will find hope and salvation.
- Pray that the printing limitations will be lifted in order to allow access to the Bible for everyone.
- Give thanks to God for the completion of Rade Bible after ten years of work. Bible Society is now waiting for printing approval from the authorities. Pray that enough copies would be printed and for safety for pastors as they organise the dedication ceremony.
- Literacy rates in Vietnam officially stand at 93%. In-depth studies however have revealed that at least 10% of the country remains illiterate. Pray for the implementation of the new literacy programme in Vietnam. Pray that we would have enough volunteers to facilitate the classes, and for the literacy co-ordinators as they travel throughout the country, training and implementing the programme.
- Bible Society is currently working on five translation projects in seven languages for various ethnic languages. Pray for the protection of translators and translation consultants, as they travel to remote areas.

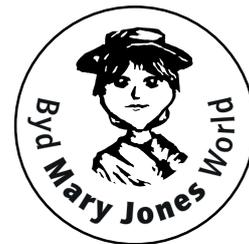
*'I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart and tell about the wonders you have worked. God Most High, I will rejoice; I will celebrate and sing because of you.'* Psalm 9.1-2 (CEV)

## CAMBODIA FACTFILE



Area: 181,035 sq km approx. 74% of UK area  
Population: 15,458,332 approx. 25% of UK population  
Literacy: 70% (unofficially 75% illiterate)  
Languages: Khmer, Vietnamese, English, Chinese

AS YOU MAY REMEMBER BYD MARY JONES WORLD IS RE-OPENING TO THE PUBLIC. It will be open daily from 1 April until 31 October 2015. Visitors will learn about 15-year-old Mary Jones' 26-mile walk to get a Bible in her own language from Revd Thomas Charles in Bala and how he went on to help establish the British and Foreign Bible Society in 1804.



How about planning a holiday in the Bala area and offering a few days help as a volunteer at Mary Jones World while you are there? Training will be provided and this will give you a great opportunity to learn more and contribute to our work as we offer the Bible to Wales.

If you would like to explore this idea further, please contact Nerys Pritchard, Education Officer and Centre Manager: 07810 750983 or email: [centre.manager@bydmaryjonesworld.org.uk](mailto:centre.manager@bydmaryjonesworld.org.uk)

To submit your story to Club Corner, please email [bamc@biblesociety.org.uk](mailto:bamc@biblesociety.org.uk) or write to us at the address at the bottom of the page. Your Club Corner story may be edited and we cannot guarantee its inclusion. Please ensure you include a return address so we can return any materials.

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To discover other ways in which we offer the Bible to the world visit [biblesociety.org.uk](http://biblesociety.org.uk)

Tear along perforation

*'Thank God for his gift that is too wonderful for words.'*  
2 Corinthians 9.15 (CEV)

## VIETNAM FACTFILE



Area total: 331,210 sq km. 30% larger than the UK  
Population: 93,421,835. 30% more than the UK  
Literacy levels: 93.4%  
Languages: Vietnamese (official), mountain area languages, English, French, Chinese and Khmer

Look out for your next *Bible a Month* prayer letter which will feature reports from **South Sudan** and **Laos**.

Thank you so much for your faithful support. We understand that for some it is still a difficult economic climate so we want to make it easy for you to be giving at a level that is right for you. If you are paying by direct debit and would like to change your gift, please just indicate your new gift amount below, sign it and return to us at the address at the bottom of this prayer letter. Alternatively, please call us on 01793 418222.

I would like to change my monthly gift to .....

Please sign here.....

If you are giving by standing order and would like to change your gift amount, please call us on 01793 418222.