

News from Bible Society

Paul Woolley

Interim Chief Executive



I hope that you have enjoyed this edition of *Transmission*.

In the context of our work at Bible Society, I have appreciated the opportunity to reflect not only on how digital shapes our engagement with Scripture, but how our engagement with Scripture reflects our use of, and engagement with, digital. Indeed, it is precisely issues such as these that we are grappling with as we develop our new five year strategy.

The speed of global change is faster than at any time in human history, to date. Social media and digital technology play an increasing influence in daily life. In January, an annual survey tracking children's media behaviour in the UK revealed that young people are spending more time playing and socialising online than watching television programmes. There was also a surge in children's ownership of tablet computers, up by 50% compared with the previous year. This presents challenges but also great opportunities for those of us engaged in Bible mission. If the invention of the printing press in the fifteenth century was a cause of the European Reformation, just imagine what the effect of digital could be!

Of course, one person who has deftly adapted to change has been our patron at Bible Society, Her Majesty The Queen. It was back in 1976, that The Queen became the first monarch to send an e-mail during a visit to an army base. She was demonstrating a technology in its infancy. Thirty-eight years later, The Queen sent Her first tweet to launch a new Science Museum gallery. The tweet – sent through the @BritishMonarchy account – said 'It is a pleasure to open the Information Age exhibition today at the @ScienceMuseum and I hope people will enjoy visiting. Elizabeth R.' We are very grateful to Her Majesty not only for her patronage of Bible Society, but for the way in which the whole of her life connects with the Scriptures, and we look forward to celebrating her ninetieth birthday in April. To celebrate, we are co-publishing a book (more

***Transmission* is provided free by Bible Society as part of our mission to equip the church to live out the Bible's message. We also work creatively and with passion to show that the Bible resonates with issues today – and to make Scriptures available where there are none.**

details inside) that explores the central role of her Christian faith on her life and reign. We would be delighted to send you a copy free of charge.

On Good Friday, 25 March, we will again be supporting a huge Wintershall cast of people and animals as they come to Trafalgar Square in London to re-enact the passion and resurrection play of Jesus' last days. The Passion has grown enormously over the years and now welcomes 20,000 people over two performances at 12 noon and 3.15 pm. If you are free and in London, please join us for this powerful public re-enactment of the Easter story. It's a great example of the Bible engaging, quite literally, with the public square.

On Saturday 26 March, Mary Jones World reopens its doors to the public for the 2016 season. Our visitor and education centre in Bala tells the story of Mary Jones, Thomas Charles and the impact of the Bible on Wales and the world. It welcomed over 6,300 visitors last year and won the Visit Wales award for the Best Told Story. Situated on the edge of Llyn Tegid, with a café, picnic area and children's playground, interactive displays, videos and activities bring the exhibition to life. If you would like to visit, our Centre Manager and Education Officer, Nerys Siddall, and her colleagues will be on site ready to give you a warm welcome. For more information, please go to www.bydmaryjonesworld.org.uk

In May, I am looking forward to the World Assembly of the United Bible Societies which takes place in Philadelphia. This will be an exciting and pivotal event in our global movement, as colleagues from 147 Bible Societies celebrate, worship and plan for the future. The theme of the Assembly is *God's Word: Living Hope for All*. This group that makes up United Bible Societies represents the biggest translator, publisher and distributor of the Bible in the world. Do please pray that there will be a renewed sense of vision and mission during our time together and that, like the men of Issachar

in 1 Chronicles 12:32, we will understand the times and know what we should do as we endeavour to offer the Bible to the world more effectively.

It is a great privilege to be engaged in Bible mission in these days. Thank you for your partnership with us. We hugely appreciate the way you give of your time, your prayers and your money. We do not take this lightly and, in turn, we commit ourselves to doing all we can to work towards a world where everyone has access to the Bible and can recognise its value for them, their families and communities.

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