

News from Bible Society

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.

It's hard to believe that it is now a year since I joined Bible Society. As we continue our journey, I am increasingly energised and excited about what is to come.

The Leadership Team is working hard to develop a new strategy for the organisation. Much of our focus is aimed at seeing Christians confident in Scripture and partnering with churches in their missional work in this country, while continuing to work internationally with passion and conviction.

We have also been looking at how Bible Society can respond to the needs of those on the margins of our society. So it is both timely and helpful that this edition of *Transmission* focuses on the phenomenon of populism. Although it is not a new ideology, its increasing prevalence, particularly in the West, has brought justifiable debate around its relationship to liberal democracy and the rhetoric of those politicians who use the term for their own agenda. However, populism 'has brought justifiable debate around its relationship to liberal democracy and the rhetoric of those politicians who tap into populism for their own agenda.'

One response modelled to us in the Incarnation, is Christ's journey from heaven to earth, to reach out to an alienated and marginalised people. We've chosen this theme for our Christmas resources. There will be a brand new children's story booklet, written by Dai Woolridge and based around the journey of Mary and Joseph. There's a new carol sheet with ten well-known carols and Bible passages which we hope will be used both for church services and carol singing in the community.

#AdventChallenge will also be returning for the fourth year to encourage thousands of people to take on Bible-inspired challenges in the run-up to Christmas.

In my own travels abroad over the last year, I have been particularly struck

by how much we can learn from the work of other Bible Societies across the globe but, particularly, the Middle East, where our colleagues are working with those marginalised and displaced by internecine conflict in Syria and Iraq. In October, the Communications team will be visiting Jordan to report on the work of the Bible Society there – they are sharing the gospel with those who have been left utterly traumatised by what they have witnessed and experienced.

Theos' Nick Spencer has written a new book on how the Bible shapes our public life, this time focusing in on perhaps the most famous parable of them all – the Good Samaritan. *The Political Samaritan: How Politics Hijacked a Parable* is published by Bloomsbury this autumn and looks at how virtually every major British political figure in the last 40 years has referred to the parable. Politicians haven't, however, all used it to say the same thing. With his customary wit and insight, Nick looks at how the parable has been used – and abused – and what that says about the Bible, our politics and our faith today.

We've also been working on a new book, *Calling People of Goodwill* – drawing people from different traditions and political views together around biblical themes of social justice.

Finally, I would like to thank the former Bishop of London, Right Revd Richard Chartres for his dedication and hard work over the past six years as our President. He has been an enthusiastic and generous supporter of our mission,

Paul Williams
Chief Executive



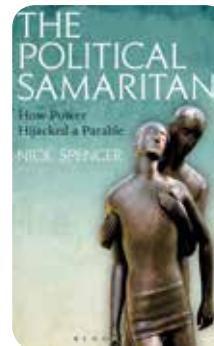
nationally and globally, not least in China where he has travelled with Bible Society.

It is an honour for us to welcome His Grace Bishop Angaelos, General Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church in the UK, as Bible Society's new President and we are looking forward to working with him on the important tasks that lie ahead. Having commenced his ministry here in 1995 as a parish priest, he was consecrated a General Bishop in 1999 and has become well known for his work in the areas of advocacy, human rights, civil liberties and inter-religious relations.

Bishop Angaelos, and the Coptic Orthodox Church which he represents, models a deep, prayerful spirituality that is characterised by its attentiveness to Scripture. The love for the Bible that is demonstrated day by day in the midst of considerable hardship and suffering by Coptic Christians is a challenge and inspiration for us all.

I know Bishop Angaelos is keen to become deeply involved in our work over the coming months and years and I would ask you to pray both for him and Bible Society, as we embark on a new season, that God would richly bless us and guide us to follow the exciting things he has for us as we seek to listen to his voice.

Thank you, as always, for your partnership in our global Bible mission.



Paul Williams

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