

Thankful to God and our supporters

A heart-warming story about our volunteer Paul Miles

During New Wine in 2015, Paul Miles found the Bible Society venue and started helping us occasionally by putting some leaflets on the chairs, doing a bit of tidying up and generally encouraging us by just being around with his lovely smile. A few times when the café was closed a group of us would sit outside in the sunshine chatting and Paul would wander past to join us, which was always great. Paul has a learning difficulty which means he can't help fully in our café at New Wine, but it was so lovely to have him around and we were delighted when he and his church agreed that he should be an extra volunteer at New Wine 2016. Paul joined our team and once he was given his Bible Society uniform T-shirt and fleece, I don't think we saw him in any other clothing the whole time. It was like having a walking billboard for Bible Society on site! We were so blessed to have Paul serving alongside us.

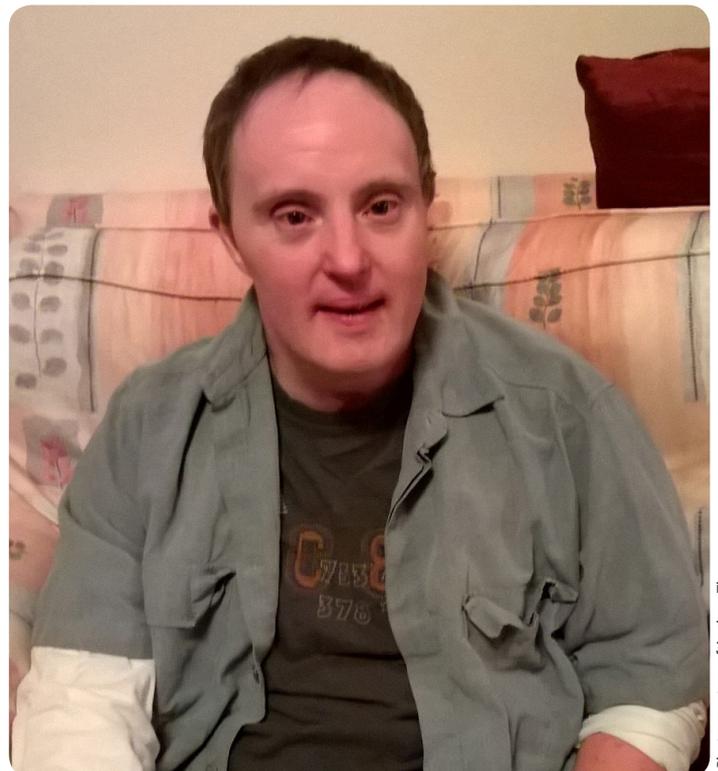
Paul and his friends have talked about Bible Society so much since the summer that the church have generously agreed to financially and prayerfully support our mission to bring the Bible to life over the next three years. We are grateful to God for sending Paul who has

Inside

Team news	3
Festival opportunities	4
Spring fundraising pack 2017	5
Events diary	5
Postcode check	6

modelled being a servant both at the festival and also in his home church.

Paul has offered to come back to New Wine with us in 2017 and we certainly won't hesitate to take him up on this. Thank you to Paul and his friends for helping us to find a way for him to serve with Bible Society.



Our volunteer Paul Miles

Uplifting visit to Romania

Volunteer Harold Hoggarth, together with Jeff and Elaine Lewis (Jeff is the Chair of Clitheroe Action Group) visited Romania from 14–23 November 2016. They spent eight days in Transylvania with three churches they work with: Rasnov (where they were based), Sageras and Cuiculata.

Harold's church in Clitheroe originally went out on mission in 1992 when they planted a church in Rasnov and supported them by paying the pastor's wages. They went on to plant the two other churches and supported them in the same way until 2008. They now regularly visit the churches but no longer need to support them financially as they are self-supporting.

Following the church visits Harold's group moved on to Bucharest to visit the Interconfessional Bible Society of Romania. Despite visiting Romania at least 20 times before, this was the first time Harold had gone to Bucharest.



Interconfessional Bible Society of Romania

The premises are in old Communist flats and consist of three ground floor rooms with a sign outside and a bell to ring for entry. They also have a warehouse for storage and an extra room for meetings. The group met with Emilia Lorgandopol (Director), the General Secretary and staff Eliza Pap, Oana

Milalache and Valendna. They were made very welcome and were shown translation work for the new Romanian Bible, children's work books which they use to learn scripture and Bible story books.



Pictured left to right is Emilia, Eliza, Harold, Oana, Elaine and Jeff.

Harold was impressed by the enthusiasm and expectation of the team and was encouraged about the future. The team is made up of Orthodox and Protestant Church members and Harold was really encouraged to hear that church growth had been quite strong in recent years, and the churches are full!

What's your story?

Please let us know if you have any interesting people you'd like to feature in Speaker Team News. Do you think you have the youngest Action Group member? Someone who used our Bibles as a missionary and is now supporting the work here? Or just a colourful character you think we'd all love to know!

Speaker team news

Vision refresh day

We're excited to invite you to one of our vision refresh days. The day will give you an insight in to our new material and vision for the year. You'll be shown the new spring fundraising pack as well as some copies of the Easter resources and you'll see an animated version too.

We'll update you about all of our festival activities and how you can get involved. We're also keen to hear your stories to encourage and equip each other as together we bring the Bible to life in the churches that we visit as well as our own congregations.

The dates and venues for you to choose from:

Date: Monday 20 March 2017

Time: 10.30-3.00

Venue: St Peter's Church, Gildersome, Leeds LS27 7AF

Date: Tuesday 21 March 2017

Time: 10.30-3.00

Venue: St Andrew's Church, Churchdown Rd, Malvern WR14 3JX

Date: Thursday 23 March 2017

Time: 10.30-3.00

Venue: Bible House, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon SN5 7DG

Date: Friday 24 March 2017

Time: 10.30-3.00

Venue: Holy Trinity Church, Titmus Drive, Tilgate, Crawley RH10 5EU

Date: Saturday 25 March 2017

Time: 10.30-3.00

Venue: 77 Great Peter Street, Westminster, London SW1P 2EZ

Date: Monday 27 March 2017

Time: 10.30-3.00

Venue: Canford Magna Parish Centre, Wimborne BH21 3AF

Date: Thursday 30 March 2017

Time: 10.30-3.00

Venue: Private home (details will be sent to those attending), Exeter, Devon

If you're able to attend, please email us at volunteers@biblesociety.org.uk by 6 March. We'll also need to know whether you have any access or dietary requirements as we'll be providing a light lunch on the day.

Ordering your resources

So that you can access all our resources, we have a new order form.

Within this newsletter email, click on the link to the volunteer's resources document, fill in what you need and send it back to us. To do this you have a choice:

1. Fill in the form by adding the number of items you require in the 'Add No Required' box
2. Add in your name, address, postcode and supporter number
3. Email it back to us via supporter.materials@biblesociety.org.uk, or
4. Print it off and post it to Bible Society, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon SN5 7DG, or
5. Call and order over the phone on 01793 418222

We'll then post your order, **please allow up to 10 working days.**

If you save the document to your desktop or the link to your favourites, you will have quick access to it every time you need to order.

Product ID	Description	Add No Required	Product ID	Description	Add No Required
PRO00242	The Wolf Good News of Christmas booklet 2016		PRO00252	The Christmas Poem booklet 2015	
PRO00253	Bible Bedtime 2 The Nativity booklet 2015		PRO00254	Welsh Bible Bedtime 2 the Nativity booklet 2015	
PRO00255	The Easter Poem booklet 2015		PRO00256	Welsh The Easter Poem booklet 2015	
PRO00257	Bible Bedtime 3 The Easter Story booklet 2015		PRO00258	Welsh Bible Bedtime 3 The Easter Story booklet 2015	
PRO00259	Jesus born to change the world booklet 2016				
PBPM001533	Pass it on Bible tales for you've never heard before		PBPM001189	Gift envelopes - General purpose	
PBPM001599	Lyle booklet - information devotional materials call Lyle		PRO00270	Word in Action Spring 2017 - A4 booklet	
PRO00251	Receipt book		PBPM001602	Z Card for volunteers - Leaflet showing what work we do and where	
	Instructions for ordering:		PBPM001605	Volunteer poster Middle East 2016 - Bringing the Bible to life	
	1. Fill in the form by adding the number of items you require in the 'Add No Required' box		PBPM001607	Volunteer poster at home 2016 - Bringing the Bible to life	
	2. Add in your name, address, postcode and supporter number		PRO00241	Volunteer information USB sticks - For volunteers and those who show an interest	
	3. Email it back to us via supporter.materials@biblesociety.org.uk , or		PRO00225	Colouring calendar 2017	
	4. Print it off and post it to Bible Society, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon SN5 7DG, or				
	5. Call and order over the phone on 01793 418222		PRO00224	Supporter calendar 2017 - Christmas appeal 2016, supporters can order more	
			PBPM001620	Stickers Christmas 2016 - 4 sheets 15 units if you would like 8 sheets	

Volunteer resources

Order form - January 2017

Speaker team news

Festival opportunities



Café volunteers at New Wine 2016

We're increasing the size of our festivals team for 2017 – and we're on the hunt for volunteers to join us this summer.

We have two roles on offer:

1. **Café volunteers** – who serve tea, coffee and cake to festival-goers at our café. We'll offer basic hygiene training, and there's no cooking involved.
2. **Stand volunteers** – who are on hand to chat to people and inspire them about how we're bringing the Bible to life across the globe.

Volunteers spend around 6 hours a day serving with us, split over two or three shifts. In return, you'll receive a free festival ticket, three meals a day, training, a Bible Society uniform and an opportunity to make new friends and work with a great team. You'll also be offered a chance to attend worship and seminar sessions outside of your shifts.

Susan Wingrave, responsible for volunteers said, 'It's an absolute joy and delight to serve at these festivals, and it's a lot of fun. You get stuck in doing something you wouldn't normally have a chance to try, and you meet a great group of people. When you're not on duty you can go to all the worship events and teaching taking place around the festival.'

We're particularly looking for café volunteers for **New Wine**, Shepton Mallet – week one **22-28 July** and week two **30 July-5 August**.

We'll also have stands at festivals like Spring Harvest, New Word Alive, Big Church Day Out South and North, Keswick, The One Event and various

Leaders Conferences. If you're interested in these opportunities, or if you know someone who may be, speak to us today. Give Susan a call on **01793 418222** or email volunteers@biblesociety.org.uk.

Chris Freed volunteered in our New Wine café after visiting and deciding she'd like to join the team. 'I loved it and got an opportunity to serve with a great team. God is very good and uses us in ways we don't ever imagine,' she said.

Nineteen-year-old Clare Gollop was a café volunteer last year. She said, 'I would definitely recommend it; the team is great, the atmosphere in the café is amazing, and the customers are very patient when things go wrong!'



Our volunteers serving in the café at New Wine 2016

Bank balance reminder

We're so grateful to all of the Action Groups for their ongoing support to bring the Bible to life for every man, woman and child. If you are involved in an Action Group, please note that the Charity Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) requires us to report on bank balances held by Action Groups as at **31 March 2017**. In April, each Action Group with a bank account will receive a letter asking for a copy of their bank statement as at **31 March 2017**. Please help us to be honouring to God and to fulfil our legal requirements in this financial matter by sending in your statements by **28 April 2017**.

If your Action Group does not have an account, please write or email us at volunteers@biblesociety.org.uk to confirm this and we won't need to ask you in future.

Speaker team news

Events diary

We always need event volunteers. Watch out for February's *Word in Action* with details of how you can get involved in bringing the Bible to life this year.

2017

26 March: Mary Jones World reopens

April: Festival of Life (date tbc)

4-8 April and 8-13 April: Spring Harvest, Minehead

10-14 April: Spring Harvest, Skegness

27-28 May: Big Church Day Out South, West Sussex

2-3 June: Big Church Day Out North, Cheshire

15-21 July, 22-28 July and 19 July-4 August: Keswick Convention

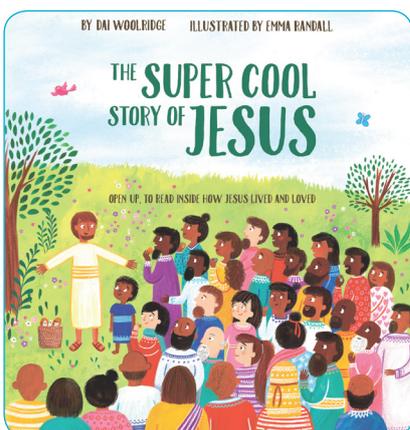
22-28 July and 30 July-5 August: New Wine, Shepton Mallet

28 August: The One Event, Lincolnshire

October: Festival of Life (date tbc)

Easter resources

We have an exciting [new Easter booklet](#) being written called *'The Super Cool Story of Jesus'* by the author of the *'Well Good News of Christmas'*, Dai Woolridge. It will be available to order from our website in March along with a video, an Easter Trail, and our other new resources. Please take a look at our website for regular updates.



Spring fundraising pack 2017

Our new [spring fundraising pack](#) will hit your mats mid-March and the theme this year will be [China](#).

Here are a couple facts about why we're working so hard to get help there:

1. In some areas of China there's just one trained pastor for every 6,700 Christians. This means one pastor looking after several churches so may only preach at a church once a month or once every two months.
2. More than 48m people in China are illiterate (UNESCO 2015: 96.4% literacy) – the majority of these are in rural places, so they can't read the Bible for themselves.
3. Because of this, it's vital that Bible teaching in China is the best it can be. There's an urgent need to provide quality Bible teaching to trainee pastors, so they can explain God's word accurately and passionately, and help Christians grow in their faith.



Pastor Liu reading the Bible to a church goer

Photography by Claire Kendall

So please look out for your new pack and use the materials for your fundraising.

Resources reminder

You should have received your new resources display by now: please dispose of any old literature. Some of the wording is out of date and in some cases, outside current legal guidelines.

We hope that you enjoy having these packs to promote our work.



Postcode check

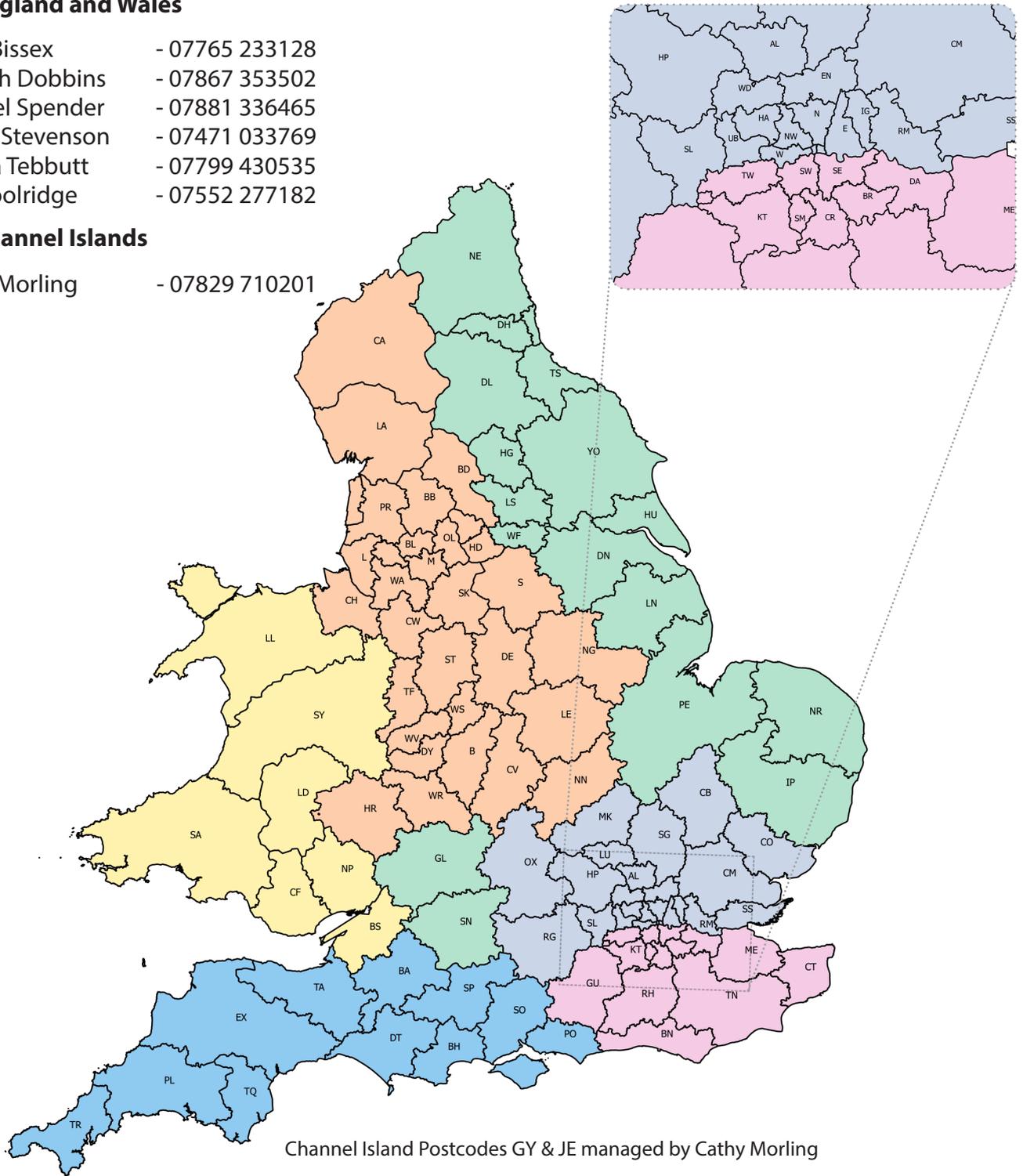
Our Church Relationship team have had a change around, below is a map confirming who is looking after each postcode region. If there has been a change for you, please feel free to get in touch with your new Church Relations Manager (CRM).

CRM - England and Wales

- Andy Bissex - 07765 233128
- Hannah Dobbins - 07867 353502
- Rachael Spender - 07881 336465
- Kristin Stevenson - 07471 033769
- Sandra Tebbutt - 07799 430535
- Dai Woolridge - 07552 277182

CRM - Channel Islands

- Cathy Morling - 07829 710201



Lal, Rakesh. Church Relation Managers [map]. Scale Not Given. 'Church Relation Managers by Postcode Ranges January 2017.' January 2017. Using: QGIS [GIS software]. V2.10 Swindon, UK: The British and Foreign Bible Society, 2017. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017. Contains Royal Mail data © Royal Mail copyright and database right 2017.

Action Group reports

30th annual event

Volunteer Vivienne Coleman, Secretary of Lowestoft Action Group, reports that the team hosted a sponsored walkathon on 7 May 2016 and raised a fantastic total of £1,300.

Vivienne said, 'The walkathon route covered Gunton woods and Lowestoft beach and was about four miles. People could choose their distance depending on what they could manage and whether they did it as a run or a slow stroll.'



Photo courtesy of Reg Coleman

People taking part in the sponsored walkathon

Vivienne believes that 'to get the deed done you need to do it yourself' and that's why they are celebrating their 30th annual walkathon this year, but she doesn't do it alone.

Martin Dennison, Treasurer of the Action Group, said, 'Vivienne is the person that gets the ball rolling for these events; she really is great at encouraging the team to get things going.'

The day itself was lovely and they had good weather. The people who took part ranged from ages eight to 82 and Vivienne joked that she was in the older bracket! With her energy and enthusiasm she certainly didn't seem it.

The donation will be going towards our work in South Sudan, which Vivienne read about in *Word in Action*, Summer 2016 issue. She said, 'It's always better to have a definite project in mind, somewhere we can focus our prayers on.'



Photo courtesy of Reg Coleman

People taking part in the sponsored walkathon

Vivienne is always trying to get more people involved and recently raised another £70 by holding a team quiz.

Thanks to Vivienne, Martin and the team for giving their time to support us.

If you think your church would be interested in holding a walkathon or any sponsored event, please get in touch with us for some example forms and publicity leaflets. You can contact us by telephone on [01793 482222](tel:01793482222) or email contactus@biblesociety.org.uk.

What's your story?

Please let us know:

- How your fundraising event goes.
- How your group is bringing the Bible to life.
- Or just why you're doing what you're doing.
- Where a large church has attended to help run an event.
- What does the Bible mean to you?

Action Group reports

By Carwyn Siddall

The Bala and Penllyn Action Group recently welcomed two special visitors from Patagonia.

Revd Carlos Rius, the minister of the Welsh Chapels in Patagonia, along with Rev Marcos Buzzelli from the Argentine Bible Society were visiting the UK and we were delighted that they were able to spend some time with the Action Group as well as members of the Welsh Argentinian Society.



Photo courtesy of Revd Carwyn Siddall

Pictured left to right Revd Marcos Buzzelli, Revd Carwyn Siddall and Revd Carlos Rius

In May 1865 approximately 185 passengers boarded The Mimosa in Liverpool headed for Patagonia to form a Welsh Colony. One of the founding members was Revd Michael Jones who was born in Llanuwchllyn, North Wales. The colony has led to a Welsh press, an Eisteddfod, Welsh Schools and Welsh Chapels. There are numerous Chapels still active today, holding service in both Welsh and Spanish.

On Sunday 11 September, Revd Carlos took part in a service reading a passage for us and then on the Monday evening he gave a talk about the Welsh Chapels in Patagonia. Although he could only speak to us in Spanish, a local lady Eirian Owen translated for the evening. There was also a video presentation by Revd Marcos about the work the Argentine Bible Society with the Welsh Chapels in Patagonia. It was good to hear about the close relationship between the Welsh Chapel's and the Argentine Bible Society in order to share the Gospel with the people in whatever language they prefer- Welsh, Spanish or English.

Following the presentation, Arfon Jones, a local soloist also gave a recital.

Our local Action Group Secretary, Mary Thomas said, 'It was amazing that everybody received so much from the meeting, being that the congregation was Welsh and the speaker Spanish, but this was due to the rapport between the speaker and the translator. Now, we hope that the relationship between our local Action Group and the Argentine Bible Society will continue.'

Following refreshments and a time to socialise, everyone hopes to build on this relationship. Judith Jones, the Presbytery Youth Worker has offered to help via social media and email contacts.

The Bala and Penllyn Action Group would like to thank Neil Rees, from Bible Society for arranging the visit.



Photo courtesy of Revd Carwyn Siddall

Bala and Penllyn Action Group



Photo courtesy of Revd Carwyn Siddall

Bala and Penllyn Action Group watching the video presentation by Marcos about the work of the Argentine Bible Society

Focus on Accra, Ghana



Photo courtesy of Bible Society Ghana

Children taking part in OtB run to meet us

By Alan Kember

A group of excited children dashed over as our truck pulled up outside the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church School in Accra, Ghana.

Their buzzing chatter filled the early morning air and they reached into the vehicle, grabbing props and costumes. These, I discovered, were the eight youngsters who'd been chosen to act in that morning's Open the Book presentation.

The local Bible Society is running a year-long pilot of Open the Book in nine schools in Ghana, with a view to rolling out the programme across Africa. It's done slightly differently here; the children act out the story while the adult volunteers narrate using *The Lion Storyteller Bible*. So far, it's proving enormously popular.

We were taken to a chapel which filled up rapidly with 300 children, aged eight to 12, talking, laughing and joking. They were so excited and noisy; their teachers had to walk between them shushing them before the play could start.

The volunteers introduced the story of Solomon and the baby, and the child actors processed in from the back and acted out the story. It was very dramatic and beautifully done. At the end, there were prayers and much appreciation of the participants – as is the way in Ghanaian culture.

Then the children went back to their classrooms to explore the story further.

Ghana is an overwhelmingly Christian country, with almost three-quarters of the population professing to be Christian. It means most children here know the Bible's stories, and often can recite verses and passages from memory.

But what I heard, time and again, was that Open the Book here helps children own the stories. When they act it out or see their friends acting it out – they really understand the narrative. It seemed to me that children in Ghana have a lot of adults telling them what to believe and how to behave. Yet suddenly, when it comes to Open the Book, adults step back. The children are in charge of the play. It comes to life as their story.



Photo courtesy of Bible Society Ghana

Alan and the OtB team

It's an adaptation of the model we use in the UK – but it works. The headmistress of the school told me there's been less quarrelling among the children since they started Open the Book. And I could see for myself how readily children engaged with the story and themes.

Please pray for the 47 Open the Book volunteers in Ghana, and for the success of this pilot project. There's great excitement among our Bible Society colleagues across Africa about Open the Book, and we'd love to see this fantastic project in more countries, reaching many more children with God's word.

Susan Wingrave
Volunteer Development Officer
Bible Society, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon SN5 7DG
T: 01793 418222 biblesociety.org.uk
Registered charity 232759

