



Bible
Society

word in action



3

Explore the big story of the Bible

5

Mali: the vital need to grow Bible ministry

6

Ministry in Morocco



Welcome to Summer 2018's Word in Action! I love the infectious smiles of the women from Mali on the front cover, they are learning to read using the Bible and express great hope despite many of them coming from backgrounds of abuse and fear. This is the power of the Bible, God transforming people's lives to bring hope and peace.

Please join with us in supporting and praying for our Christian brothers and sisters who live in countries where the Church is under pressure and being a Christian carries a great cost. In this edition we hear stories from Mali, Morocco and Algeria. We've also included the same title from the last edition, 'Pass it on: Bible verses that speak to you' as so many of you told us how encouraged you were by the last verses.

Every blessing
Larissa
Word in Action editor

Chat with our Chief Exec



Photography by Layton Thompson

Q: You recently met our colleague who runs the Bible Society in Morocco, working in very challenging circumstances. What do you think we can learn from our brothers and sisters in Morocco?

A: Firstly, we can be inspired by their courage. I think that many Christians in our country feel a little intimidated in an environment where Christianity is no longer at the centre of our national life. It's less acceptable to be a Christian than it was a few decades ago and the public discourse is often quite hostile towards Christians. It's nothing like the level of persecution experienced by Christians in some countries like Morocco, but it's a factor that's new for Christians in Britain. We can easily give way to a feeling of intimidation from our society, which doesn't threaten violence, but social ostracism. So the courage of Christians in a Muslim dominated environment, willing to take risks daily for their faith, is inspiring.

Secondly, I think that Christians in countries like Morocco can remind us to be confident in Scripture. They have an enormous confidence in the Bible and are not afraid or embarrassed to share it. What we have learnt from the really encouraging stories from countries like Morocco is the powerful effect of Scripture in changing lives. We hear many stories of Muslims

coming to faith through reading the Bible.

It's easy for us to think that the Bible is a barrier in coming to faith, from conversations that we hear about and critiques of the Bible. But even in this country the research evidence* shows that the top three factors in coming to faith are first and second, personal relationships and church, and third, reading the Bible. Many people were shocked by the finding that the Bible played such a significant role in people's faith journey. But we shouldn't be surprised because we know from John's Gospel that these stories have been written down that we may know something of what Jesus is like. That's why God has given us the Scripture, to point to Jesus and show us a light in the darkness.

So the second thing we learn is that we can be confident in Scripture, be engaged in things that we might otherwise be fearful about, and be willing to be courageous. Those are the things I hope we can take away from the story of the Bible Society in Morocco – courage and confidence in the Bible, and in living faithful witnessing lives in our own Society.

*2015 research, Talking Jesus – Perceptions of Jesus, Christians and evangelism in England talkingjesus.org

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Front cover photography by
Ken Dachi

The Bible Course



Photography by Clare Kendall

Explore the **big story** of the Bible

Reading the Bible has gone from 'habit' to 'really exciting' for Esther Brown. The change came when she joined 30 other people from her Baptist church in Wiltshire, on the eight-week-long Bible course. The course explains the story of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, talking about how it fits together.

'I grew up as a Christian,' said Esther, 'but I have never really understood the Bible. It was always a challenge to pick it up. It's a big book. It's so complex and if I'm really, really honest with you, I didn't know where to find anything.'

So, when the church she attends in Wichelstowe in Wiltshire, decided to run the course, Esther jumped at the chance to join in. 'I wanted to know more about the Bible,' she said.

In eight weeks, she went from 'panicking' about what she might learn, to feeling 'oh wow' about reading the Bible. It was a big change.

But the most significant change for Esther was how confident she now is in talking to her children about the Bible. 'The course has helped me to talk to my children with excitement and knowledge about the Bible,' she said. 'That's important, because I want my children to have a Christian upbringing.'

'I want them to know that it is real, and that this is God speaking to them. Reading the Bible could be the foundation of their lives, and I never really had that, even though I went to church. The Bible wasn't exciting for me, growing up. But I hope that my children will be able to read the Bible, absorb it and be excited and fascinated by it.'

The course was hosted by Revd Owen Green, minister of The Stowe at Wichelstowe. 'Seeing how the Bible hangs together, not just the stories of Jesus, has been substantially helpful for us. I'm hoping that the course will give people confidence in their faith.'

I'm feeling excited to see how people's faith will develop because they have been on *The Bible Course*.'

To find out how you can use *The Bible Course* in your church, visit biblesociety.org.uk/thebiblecourse

The Greatest Story Ever Toured

The Bible Course is going on tour this summer and we'd love you to join us for an evening of comedy, discovery and music as we journey through the Bible. Hosted by Paul Kerensa (stand-up comedian and scriptwriter for *Miranda* and *Top Gear*) and Andrew Ollerton (author and presenter of *The Bible Course*) with music provided by Sound of Wales.

Dates and locations:

21 June Chester, 22 June Hull, 28 June Tunbridge Wells, 29 June Guildford, 30 June Bristol, 13 July Exeter, 14 July Wimborne

To book:

biblesociety.org.uk/biblecoursetour

We have stepped up our efforts to provide the Bible to marginalised, overlooked communities in Africa. That means going to the hard-to-reach places and countries at war. It means standing with Christians under pressure and seeking out those on the edge of society.

So far, our dedicated teams on the ground have accelerated Bible work in Swaziland, Malawi, Mozambique, South Sudan, Central African Republic and Mali.

Here, we bring you two reports – one from Alan Kember, Head of Supporter Relations, who went to see the impact of your support in Mozambique, and one from Ken Dachi, Programme Adviser for Africa, who visited Mali to see how your gifts and prayers can make a difference there.

Mali: the vital need to grow Bible ministry

Bible work in Mali is challenging. Firstly, the Church here is under pressure. The population is 90% Muslim, with less than a million Christians in the country, and extremist groups from the north are trying to exert greater influence. For our team, it's a struggle to find office space because landlords won't rent to Christians, and we can't open a Bible bookshop because it would be vandalised.

Secondly, our people simply don't have the right set-up. Imagine working in the corner of an incomplete building, in unbearable, choking heat, with an old, slow computer, no internet, and just a motorbike to deliver thousands of Bibles around the country. Despite the obstacles, Bible work is happening. The purpose of God will

never be thwarted. Last year the team provided 11,000 full Bibles and 12,000 New Testaments and booklets. Think what they could do with proper distribution channels and technology to plan their stock!

Then there were the abused women I met (pictured left), who are learning to read using the Bible and discovering their self-worth in Jesus. One lady, Mama Djara, came to faith in Christ 14 years ago. She told me, 'The Bible is my firm foundation.'

These women have been raped or abused, assaulted by their husbands or have fled their homes as extremist groups arrive – but they are finding hope in God's word.

What's more, they are passionate about extending the project across

Mali, so more women can meet Jesus through the Bible. I was amazed by their desire for ministry. When you hear news from Mali, you don't hear stories of people bold in their faith, looking to a better day, putting in the effort to get there. But that is what's happening – and we need to help.

We are committed to being in volatile, unstable, difficult countries like Mali, because that's where Scripture can make a great difference. With your support, we'll build on the momentum of Bible ministry in Mali, and reach more people with God's word.



Ken Dachi
Programme Adviser
for Africa

Mozambique: how your support is providing the Bible

This is a huge country. From Maputo, the capital in the south, to Pemba in the north, it's 1,500 miles. That's Land's End to John O'Groats and back again. And with only one office in the country, reaching the whole nation with the Bible was a huge challenge.

So over the last few years, we've set up two Bible 'hubs' – one in Tete, in the north-west, and one in Massinga, on the south-east coast. These are essentially bookshops and offices which can be used as a base for translation, distribution and literacy work. They might be just buildings – but they are transformational.

In Tete I met pastors who told me it used to take them two days to get a Bible. They travelled into Malawi or Zimbabwe and brought back as

many as they could. They said people used to peddle Bibles in the market for double the cover price, such was the demand. I was astonished. Imagine not being able to order something (anything!) from the internet and have it delivered. But simply getting your hands on a Bible here was almost impossible – and as a result most Christians didn't have one.

The Bible hub has changed that. Bible ownership has shot up – one pastor told me 50 people in his church bought a Bible in the first few months of the bookshop opening – and families are reading God's word at home. 'People hear a sermon, go home, read their Bibles and reflect, and their faith is growing,' said Pastor Chester Chinpoza. 'It was like a dream come true when the bookshop opened.'



In Massinga I had the privilege of being at the official opening of the Bible hub (pictured above). It was a joyous and colourful celebration, attended by around 30 pastors. As the doors opened, the pastors burst into spontaneous songs of praise and danced their way into the building. 'We need this Bible shop; this is our time,' said one pastor. 'We want people's minds to be opened to the word of God.'

Your support has made this possible in Mozambique, thank you.



Alan Kember
Head of Supporter
Relations

Ministry in Morocco

'I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.'

Isaiah 41.18b (ESV)

The Bible Society in Morocco runs a Christian discipleship course, but not as we know it. The list of topics covered does include an overview of Bible books for new believers, and guidance on reading different types of writing. But 'telling your family about your faith' is the subject of one session. There's a talk on how to respond to the police ('don't show fear, is the advice, and 'always be brave'). And participants even receive tips on memorising Scripture so they can lean on God's word when they're in prison.

'It's not the kind of thing you'd cover on a church course in England,' says our colleague, in a huge understatement. But for him, it's normal – because this is Morocco, where simply giving someone a Bible can land you in jail.

The man who leads our ministry in Morocco has seen the inside of several prison cells during his 17 years in charge. It comes with the territory. But it means we can't tell you his name or share a picture of him with you.

In fact, much of what we do is so secret only a few people within our network are allowed to know the details. But we can tell you a little about this courageous work, and the extraordinary impact of the Bible in this northern African nation.

Almost everyone – 99% of the 34 million-strong population – in Morocco is a Muslim. It's the state religion and the King of Morocco claims his position as a descendent of the Islamic prophet Muhammad. Christianity is seen as the foreigners' religion, and the Bible is considered to be distorted and corrupt. Despite this, the Church in Morocco is growing.

Every week we receive around 100 requests from people who want a Bible to find out more about Christianity. It's thought there are up to 40,000 Christians in the country today, though some say there are tens of thousands more hidden believers who keep their faith a secret for fear of repercussions. The Church is also predicted to keep growing – 'in number, involvement and bravery,' said our colleague.

We've been in Morocco for decades, leading Scripture translation (the first Moroccan Arabic New Testament was produced in 2012) and distribution (6,000 Bibles were provided in 2017). More recently, we've started running Christian discipleship courses, 'Bible weekends,' for new believers.

'It's our job to care for the baby Christians,' said our colleague. 'Then, in time, we let them go and we say they are in God's care.' Every seeker who contacts our team, as well as receiving Scripture, is linked up with their local Christian community. Our staff visit churches to teach basic concepts and doctrine to those with no prior knowledge of Christianity. And we run Bible weekends, attended by whole congregations.

'Imagine you're a remote, rural Christian and you're on your own,' said our staff member. 'I want you to know how to navigate the Bible and apply it to your life. We live in a society where doctrine is important. The truth of the Bible is a sword in the hands of believers.'

Our colleague, himself a Muslim-background believer, gives suggestions about how to tell (and how not to tell) family about your Christian faith. His own faith was revealed by accident, and it led to a painful stand-off with his older

brother. Practical advice on responding to police interrogation is also on the agenda.

Already, the fruits of this work are becoming apparent, and whole families are being changed by Christ. Our colleague said, 'I have known one family for years. First the mother came to faith after watching Christian TV, and I provided her with a Bible and connected her with a pastor. Her husband was a tough, ex-military man, feared by his family. But now he, too, is a Christian. Their four boys and one daughter are all believers and some are training to be house church leaders. When you see this family together, they have love and kindness among them.'

Our colleague added, 'To see people reading the Bible, coming to know Christ, and being changed for good... this is where my heart is. All the danger, the headaches, the security and the risk, is for that.'

The first complete Moroccan Arabic Bible is due for completion by 2021, and there are other plans to grow the ministry to keep pace with the expanding Church. But if you ask our colleague about his long-term plans for Bible work in Morocco, he laughs and says that is 'a Western question.' 'We don't know what will happen even tomorrow with the police and government,' he says. 'When you look at the situation, you get discouraged. So we fix our eyes on God's promises. God will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land a spring (Isaiah 41.18), and this ministry is what he will use to do it.'



Claire Smith
Freelance writer

Pass it on: Bible verses that speak to you

We had such an overwhelmingly positive response to the Pass it on article in the last Word in Action that we felt compelled to continue the feature in this edition. It has been a delight to read the verses that have inspired, encouraged, comforted and challenged you as we all walk together on our faith journey. Please keep sharing your stories with us at biblesociety.org.uk/passonmyverse

*Thank you
Larissa
Word in Action editor*

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

It reminds me of my husband, who, on 7 April 1945 asked me if we could become engaged to be married.

I replied yes, but what was the point as I could not see how we could ever afford to marry. We were 22 and 21 years old, and neither of our parents had money. Les said 'well, you never know' and gave me this verse. To cut it short, we were married the next January 1946 and although often forgetting the first phrase, the Lord greatly blessed us with 56.5 years of happy marriage, a lovely family and, after Les was taken, the Lord has continued to be my greatest friend.

Doreen, Ipswich

For I am certain that nothing can separate us from his love: neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers, neither the present nor the future, neither the world above nor the world below – there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38 – 39 (GNB)

After I became a mum for the first time, I became quite depressed, and it took a long time for me to get over it. During that time, I read this verse, and it just stuck with me through thick and thin. Even now my children are grown up and independent, this verse still speaks to me and encourages me that whatever happens, we are precious to the Lord.

Pam, Cumbria

*I WILL NOT DIE
BUT LIVE, AND
WILL PROCLAIM
WHAT THE LORD
HAS DONE.*

PSALM 118:17 (NIV)

I was conscripted into the army during World War Two and followed the daily Bible reading programme. This verse was in the reading just after enlistment and came to me as a promise – a great encouragement. I am still here aged 93. All God's promises are faithful and true. I have supported the Lord's work ever since.

Mr Steel, Bristol

*...nor height nor depth,
nor anything else in all
creation, will be able to
separate us from the love
of God in Christ Jesus
our Lord.*

Romans 8:39 (ESV)

I read it when my husband was very ill in 2004, in the hospital chapel. I decided to have it read at my mother's funeral. She had been 'away' from the Lord for many years but it gave me such joy that she came back to the Lord three weeks before she died so, as I say, nothing can separate me from the love of God.

Linda, Horncastle

Legacy Event at the British Library



During April we invited our supporters who are considering leaving a gift in their will to Bible Society to an event at the British Library. It gave us an opportunity to say a big thank you to around 120 supporters who attended.

Three experts from the British Library introduced us to the Library's magnificent Bible collection, including the amazing Codex Sinaiticus, the beautiful Lindisfarne Gospels and the historic Gutenberg Bible. The first expert focused on manuscripts of the early Bibles, some of which are the finest specimens of their time, demonstrating the arts of calligraphy, illumination and book-production. The second expert brought us forward in time looking at the first printed Bibles. They have examples from all corners of the Western world, and from every decade including Johann Gutenberg's Latin Vulgate Bible and parts of William Tyndale's Bible in English. Lastly, the beauty of Bible illuminations were brought to life by another expert. We were shown decorated lettering, borders and illustrations using gold and vibrant colours – the intricate artistic skills are amazing.

After refreshments we heard from our Chief Executive, Paul Williams, who spoke with passion about our mission around the world, with particular focus on our plans for England and Wales. A Q&A session allowed our supporters to quiz Paul about our work – none of which would be possible without the donations and legacies from supporters like you. It was an excellent event hearing about the Bible treasures at the British Library. Judging by the smiling faces and positive comments, everyone had a delightful time!

Howard Barker
Head of Legacy Giving



Call to prayer: Church in Algeria under threat

Since May 2017, the Bible Society in Algeria has been trying, without success, to obtain a license to import Scripture materials. Today, the entire Algerian Christian community is under threat.



All photography by United Bible Societies

The Protestant Church of Algeria (Église Protestante d'Algérie – EPA) has issued a statement objecting to the closure by the authorities of four of its places of worship across the country: in Oran (the north-east), in Béjaïa and Tizi-Ouzou (the north, in Kabylie) and in Ouargla (the centre). They were told to 'cease all activity', and all EPA member churches are worried that they will be closed, too.

The EPA – the only Algerian Protestant Church body recognised in the country – has been officially registered since 1974. Its registration was confirmed in July 2011, and its statutes were updated in accordance with the 2012 law.

In its statement, the EPA also denounced the intimidation of its members, including recent lawsuits filed against three Christians wrongfully accused of proselytising, the targeted searches of Christians at Algiers airport, and the confiscation of Christian books. Other incidents mentioned by the EPA are the 'closure of a bookshop in Oran because the owner is a Christian' and 'an attempt to close a quail farm in Layada Oran, also owned by a Christian.'

In each of these actions against Christians, the authorities have been using the 2006 law, which governs 'non-Muslim cults', and in particular article 11, which forbids anybody from 'seeking to shake the faith of a Muslim'. This vague wording means that Christians can face accusation no matter what they do.

Ali Khidri, General Secretary of the Bible Society in Algeria, is very concerned about this brutal turn of events for the Church in his country.



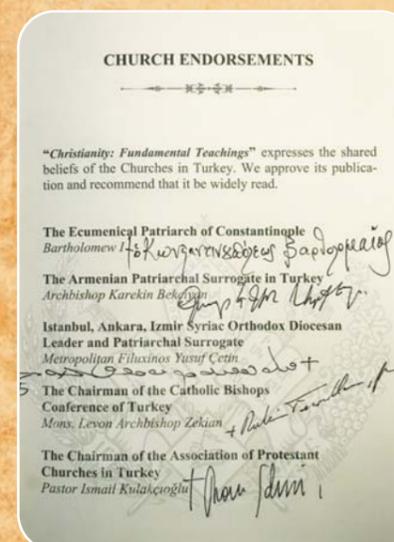
'Please pray for Algerian Christians and for the ministry of the Bible Society here,' he says. 'Our freedom of worship is facing a grave threat and there is a clear violation of fundamental freedoms. We need your prayers more than ever.'

NOTE: Please share this information and call to prayer as widely as possible, including with the media.



A worship service in Algeria

Christians in Turkey unite for 'miracle' ecumenical book publication



Christians in Turkey have united for a landmark development in ecumenical unity with the English publication of a book of doctrine endorsed by all the country's major denominations.

The book *Christianity: Fundamental Teachings*, has now been endorsed by Turkey's Orthodox, Catholic, Armenian, Syriac and Protestant Churches according to World Watch Monitor.

A joint statement signed by denominational representatives said: '*Christianity: Fundamental Teachings* expresses the shared beliefs of the Churches in Turkey. We approve its publication and recommend that it be widely read.'

The book was originally released in 2015, by the Bible Society of Turkey, but had a formal launch of its English edition on 3 February in Istanbul.



Armenian Bishop Sahak Masalyan, the keynote speaker at the launch, said the joint endorsement was 'akin to a miracle'.

The new book's back cover reads: 'For Churches that have ostracised each other for centuries, leaving a legacy of deep divisions and resentments to sign their names to such a work is no small step toward Christian unity.'

Bishop Masalyan said, 'You cannot find another page like this in Church history.'

He added: 'Through this book we declared to the whole world with a mighty voice that without hesitation, we see every Church and believer who approves of the fundamental principles and doctrines of faith in this book as fellow-heirs of salvation in Jesus Christ, considering them as our brothers and sisters.'

The 95-page publication was brought about through an 11-member joint ecumenical

commission which endeavoured to produce a document outlining essential doctrine common to its five denominations.

The commission had originally emerged at the behest of Turkish government officials, who had counselled the leaders seeking clearer information about the Christian faith for use in school textbooks in the majority Muslim country. The English edition, also available as an e-book, is aimed at giving the document a wider international audience, 'reaching out to the most remote parts of Christendom,' Bishop Masalyan said.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew said the commission had brought the church branches 'closer to each other, to discover and recognise the fundamental beliefs that unite us... to realise that much more unites us than divides us'.

Originally published on christiantoday.com

Journey through the Bible in 3½ minutes



Dai Woolridge
Creative
Development
Specialist

To say the Bible is a bit big is an understatement. It's like saying Usain Bolt had a bit of pace, or Mount Everest is a bit of a climb. With hundreds of thousands of words covering centuries of history using so many forms of literature, it can be easy to feel intimidated.

But spanning through it all, is this sense of story – God's unfolding narrative through the Bible. Sometimes we can miss this bigger picture of how everything fits together.

Old Testament Journey...

In January we released a video called *The Old Testament Journey in 3½ minutes*. It's part one of a three-part video resource, giving a snapshot of Israel's journey through the Old Testament in yes, you've guessed it, 3½ minutes!

Kicking off with Abraham, we race through Israel's journey in the Old Testament and meet some of the key heroes from the story on the way. Giants of the faith like Moses, warrior and worship leader David, right place at the right time Esther, not to mention Kings like Rehoboam who made a bit of a mess of things.

Journey of Jesus...

The sequel to the *Old Testament Journey*, is the *Journey of Jesus*, again in 3½ minutes which gives a glimpse of the Gospels. Covering birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension – we wanted to give a taster of Jesus' journey from Christmas through to Easter and hinting at Pentecost.

Early Church Journey...

Finally, part three of the story. Another 3½ minute journey (you may have seen a pattern developing!), this time covering Acts, the arrival of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church. From Peter's preaches to prisoner Paul and his pen pals.

The truth is, you can't do the Bible justice in the time it takes to make a cuppa. But our heart is to storytell the beats of the Bible. Using warmth, humour and pop culture references, we want to connect people to this incredible story and encourage people to pick the Bible up for themselves.

You could use the videos in your church service, home group or local school. To download your free 3½ minute films, visit biblesociety.org.uk/3andahalfminutes

New Lyfe Journal resource

If you're looking for an individual or group resource on the Holy Spirit or Prayer, you'll love our latest edition of the *Lyfe Journal*, focusing on the Holy Spirit and exploring what it means for us to live a Spirit-empowered life. The features enable us to reflect on the work of the Holy Spirit through the Bible, from creation to the early church in Acts through a series of essays written by theologians like Lucy Peppiatt, Calvin Samuel and Antony Billington.

This second edition follows on from our pilot edition on the theme of Prayer – both journals are available from our online shop

biblesociety.org.uk/lyfejournal



THE
JOURNEY OF JESUS
IN 3½ MINUTES



A time for peace

On Remembrance Sunday, the nation will fall silent for two minutes as we remember those who lost their lives in war. This year's commemoration will be all the more poignant, marking as it does, the end of the centenary of World War One.

As well as looking backwards, Remembrance Sunday gives us a chance to reflect on what the Bible says about peace, and how that can touch our lives today.

There are plenty of ways in which you can get involved. First, we're joining with other Christian organisations to mark 100 Days of Prayer. From 4 August, you can join with the prayers of thousands of others across the country. Then, if you are planning a Remembrance event in your community, we can help you.

We have a special Remembrance Sunday order of service, based on the wonderful verses from Revelation 21.3 – 5. They include the words, 'He will wipe away every tear from their eyes and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.' We think that these words are so moving that we'd love to offer you a different way to engage with them this Remembrance Sunday.

These words, according to Revd Mark Woods, editor of

Christian Today, who's writing this year's Remembrance Sunday pack for churches, 'offer a vision of peace that has roots too deep to tear up, because it's spiritual, not just institutional'. So, there will be a video for you to play in your church or community, of people from all walks of life in Britain, saying these moving words from the Bible.

And, of course, there's still time to buy *Hear My Cry*, a book of reflections, prayers, and Psalms: an ideal give-away for people in your community this November.

Why should we remember? Because of the ordinary young men who died during the war. Of the 65 million across Europe who were mobilized, some 8.5 million were killed. They were men like 28-year-old Albert Penn, who'd recently become a father when he joined up in 1916. He was last seen at Passchendaele, reading from the Bible to his fellow soldiers. He died just a few days later and his body was never found.

In my church we always read out the names of those who died. You probably do too. It's sobering. Men like Albert are all around us. This year, we can remember them.



Hazel Southam
Chief reporter

How to get involved:

Download your church pack, video, and resources for your local school from: biblesociety.org.uk/worldwar1

Order your copy of *Hear My Cry*: biblesociety.org.uk/hearmycry

Take part in 100 Days of Prayer: remembrance100.co.uk

Join our partner organisation, There But Not There, in remembering those who died in your community: therebutnotthere.org.uk

Photography: Andrew Boyd

YOUR LETTERS & COMMENTS

Congratulations on the brilliant cover page, urging us to pass on God's word down the generations. We used the Pass it on verses at our ladies' meeting. As we each read one and heard how God has spoken through them, we too were blessed. Next we'll 'pass on' our own special verses.

ANNE, WARRINGTON

Your publication is so inspiring and lifts my spirit every time I read it. My favourite verse is from Isaiah 30.15 'In repentance and rest is your salvation. In quietness and trust is your strength.' These words have been like a beacon of light so many times in my life. The Bible is God's word living and active and vital. God bless you all.

SANDRA, ST AUSTELL

I was so touched by the articles on the Central African Republic and the family of Saad and Fida in Jordan, that I was moved to pray for them immediately.

ANN, EXETER

Reading *Word in Action* really melts my heart – CAR and the faith and hope of those ladies proclaiming the word of God in the face of danger. May God continue to bless them.

INA, CRANBROOK

I love reading it – very informative and encouraging. I really loved the article with favourite Bible verses – they made me smile and cry too!

MARGARET, HIGH WYCOMBE

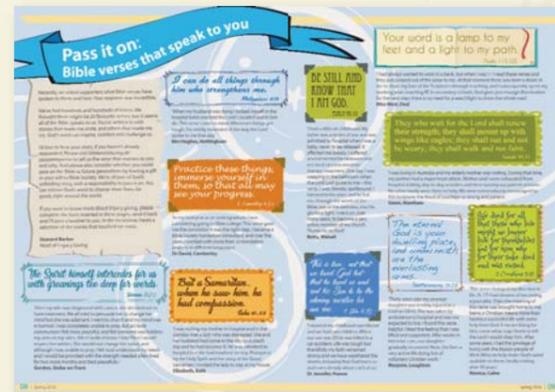


Thank you for *Word in Action*. It is a real encouragement to hear how the Bible is changing lives and being an encouragement to people who have so much tragedy in their lives. It was a blessing to read of what these women are doing in CAR.

ELIZABETH, BELFAST

On this bitterly cold morning, I found reading *Word in Action* very heart-warming and inspiring, especially as I have to write intercessions for church on Sunday. God bless you all and thank you.

PHYLLIS, HELSTON



A very attractive and colourful production, full of interest. The centre spread 'Pass it on – Bible verses that speak to you' was very meaningful and much valued.

PHIL AND PRISCILLA, LEIGHTON BUZZARD

WE LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Email us your thoughts and comments at wia@biblesociety.org.uk or use the comments form attached. We reserve the right to edit letters for style and length. The views expressed do not necessarily represent those of Bible Society.

One verse



Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 3.5-6

It was a verse my grandfather gave to me repeatedly. Almost every time I left his house, he would say it to me. Over the years this verse, framed within a life of wisdom, has comforted, challenged and rebuked me. In part, I owe my love for the Bible to my grandfather; it was his legacy to me.

Paul Williams, Chief Executive

Biblepeople:

Bible Society mourns the death, but celebrates the life of evangelist Billy Graham, who died at the age of 99.

During his 70 years of ministry, Billy Graham is thought to have preached to more people than anyone else in history, reaching hundreds of millions of people at stadium events, and through TV broadcasts.

Some 77 million people saw him preach in person, while a further 215 million watched his evangelistic crusades on television. He counselled

US Presidents and also preached to the Queen during his long career. Paul Williams said, 'Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Billy Graham. The world has lost a remarkable witness to Jesus Christ and to the power of the Bible. We honour and celebrate his extraordinary life and his enormous enthusiasm for the Bible, which was central to his ministry.'

'People who have heard Billy Graham preach will know of his passion for the Bible, a passion that we share. He based his life's work on Scripture,



knowing the impact it can have on people.'

In 1982, Billy Graham visited Bible Society to open its building in Swindon, Wiltshire (pictured above). For more, visit: billygraham.org

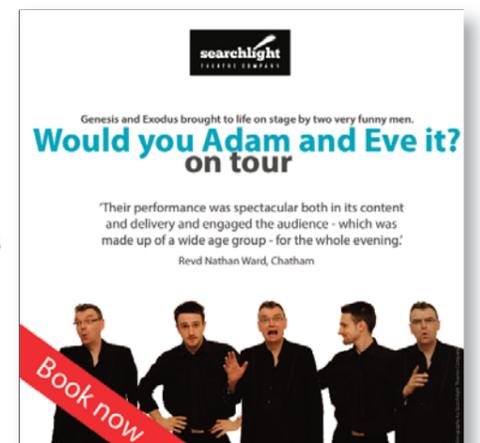
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Throughout June and September 2018, we are joining forces with Searchlight Theatre Company to bring their show *Would you Adam and Eve it?* to churches across the country.

This 90-minute journey through the first 90 chapters of the Bible, received five star reviews at The Edinburgh

Fringe festival and has been delighting audiences around the world for a number of years. Now it's your opportunity to experience this incredible two-man show in a church near you for just £10 a ticket!

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