



Bible
Society

word in action



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I have been inspired by the top tips for Bible reading from our staff (pages 2 and 3) and am following our Chief Exec's plan for daily reading of Psalms and Proverbs. If I'm being honest, consistent daily Bible reading has always been a struggle for me. So if you're anything like me, I pray you're inspired by our ideas to explore the Bible more regularly and in new ways.

We want to say a huge thank you for your incredibly generous response to our China appeal in the last edition (you can read a follow up on pages 8 and 9). We pray you are equally moved by stories from Ghana, Wales, China, the Gulf and Syria. As always, 'I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.' (Philippians 1.5 ESV)
Every blessing
Larissa
Word in Action editor

Chat with our Chief Exec

Q: On page 3 we have featured top tips for Bible reading from two of our staff. What are your top tips?

A: The first thing is to make it as easy as you can to read the Bible regularly, a little bit every day is better than fits and starts. You have to get rid of all the barriers, including figuring out what you're going to read. I've made my own scheme of reading through Psalms and Proverbs every day, so that at a minimum I just need a Bible and to know the date.

The Proverbs are simple – it's the day of the month, so if it's 25th of the month, then read Proverbs 25. With Psalms you multiply the month by 10; so in February you multiply by 10 and get 20, then you add whatever the day of the month is, so for 15 February add 20 plus 15 which equals Psalm 35.

The only exception is January where you start with Psalm 1, keep going until 31 January through to Psalm 31. Then on 1 February you read Psalm 21, so there's an overlap in reading. It means by the end of the year, on 30 December, you read Psalm 150. Then you start again on 1 January. You read through all the Psalms in a year and Proverbs almost every month.



Photography by Layton Thompson

Alongside that I read Bible reading notes, for example *Celtic Daily Prayer* from the Northumbria Community, a Catholic devotional called *Sacred Reading*, the Bible Reading Fellowship notes and Bible Society's *Lyfe*. If you're curious about what you're reading, you can go deeper by reading the passage in a range of translations. Bible Society's guide on Bible translations is really helpful at biblesociety.org.uk/whichtranslation

I also read Bible books with a commentary for more in-depth reading. For example lately I've been reading Stephen Verney's *Water into Wine* which is a fantastic commentary on John's Gospel and John H Walton's commentary on Genesis.

The more we are able, I think it behoves us to learn more about the biblical languages, culture and background. After all, this is an incredible gift that God has given us and one of the ways that we love God with our mind is by applying it to understanding the Bible. Giving something that we really love full attention is very important.

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 by James Markham of an
 Open the Book team in
 Ghana

We print *Word in Action* on responsibly sourced paper and carry the Forest Stewardship Council® logo.

Top tips for Bible reading

Tips from Helen Crawford, Digital Content Manager
and Oldi Morava, Director of International Mission

Two of our staff share their top tips for reading the Bible. We'd love to hear your top tips and will publish some of your ideas in the next edition of *Word in Action*. Email your Bible reading tips to wia@biblesociety.org.uk or write them on the comments slip on the cover letter and return them in the business reply envelope. We can't wait to read your ideas, get creative!

Get curious

If you're in a familiar passage or are coming to a text you know well, ask yourself where else in the Bible a similar theme or context occurs. Reading Ephesians? Look at Paul's history with Ephesus in Acts. Does the passage quote another part of Scripture? Check out the original. See how these explorations heighten your sense of what's going on.

Get perspective

If you tend to look into the details of a text and really try to 'rinse' a verse for all it's worth, challenge yourself to read through a book all in one go. You'll see different patterns and possibly form different conclusions. If you're used to looking at the big picture, dig into the detail.

Know what you're handling

Knowing which genre of text is in front of you will help make sense of what you're reading. You're going to interpret a letter differently to how you would a story, just as you'll respond to the 6 o'clock news differently to the adverts before it.

If you're new to biblical genre, check out biblesociety.org.uk/genre

Pray

Pray before and after you read a passage. At the beginning pray that God will guide you and reveal himself through the passage that you're reading, perhaps by highlighting aspects you haven't noticed before. After reflecting on the text, turn what you have read into prayers for yourself and others, learn to make the Bible the vocabulary of your prayer life.

Use different translations

If you're studying a particular passage, read it in more than one translation of the Bible. The different renderings of translations may not only provoke your imagination, but also highlight some of the difficulties of the original text that you need to bear in mind when interpreting a passage.



Open the Book in Ghana

It's another hot, humid morning in Accra as I step out of the car and head towards the school compound. The sun is beating down, leaving a dense haze where it meets the dust kicked up by our tyres on the dry ground. Though I haven't yet spotted any of the children, I can certainly hear them. The sound of hundreds of voices singing together engulfs me as I approach the simple concrete building up ahead. It makes me smile as I think to myself, today is going to be another great day.

I'm in Ghana, on my third day of visiting primary schools running our Bible storytelling programme – Open the Book. Every week, schools across the capital city and beyond are visited by teams of volunteers who tell the children a Bible story in a fun and engaging way. Sometimes they dress up in costumes. Sometimes they bring props. But, most popular of all, sometimes they ask children to be a character in the story too.

'Last Christmas, I was in the Open the Book play', 11 year old Daniel tells me excitedly, as he recounts the nativity story in surprising detail. I'm amazed at how much he can remember and convinced he must have had a lead role to recall it so vividly. 'I was a goat', he announces proudly, puffing out his chest and crossing his arms when I ask.

This is one of the things I love most about Open the Book. It's a simple concept – just about sharing a story and giving the children space to find meaning in it for themselves. Yet its impact is significant. Across my visit so far, I've heard multitudes of children detailing stories that they've heard months earlier, teachers enthusing

about the impact they've seen on the children's behaviour and attitudes, and volunteers sharing stories of transformation. When people speak to me about it, it is clear there is a real sense of joy and excitement surrounding the programme.

Headteacher Jocelyn Agordo agrees. 'Even though the Open the Book time is short, the children are happy. They are very happy. When it's Wednesday, you can see them running towards the building. They can't wait to see it.'

Charles Twumasi, Programme Manager for the Bible Society in Ghana who leads Open the Book,

shares with me why he thinks it has been so successful. 'We have many preachers here going into schools to speak to the children. They are doing their best and we believe that some of the children do understand, but for many it goes over their heads. But with Open the Book, the children are participating. They are seeing the drama and then can recollect the stories, they can identify with the issues presented. You see the rush to get in and see Open the Book. It is very humbling.'

And it's not just about being able to remember the stories, but reflecting on them too. 'Last week we did the story of when Jesus died', one of the volunteers tells me. 'When we were



acting, you could see in the faces of the children that they felt something was wrong. Jesus should not stand for this. But when Jesus forgave the man next to him, it was like they understood. You could see them thinking "I want to be like that". We are blessed to be able to share the message, and they really embrace it.

We have been partnering with the Bible Society in Ghana to run Open the Book here for the past four years and Charles, ably assisted by

colleagues Rubby and Elizabeth, has done an amazing job in growing the programme to reach over 6,000 school children. Their big vision is to reach every primary school in Ghana.

'The Bible says we should train a child in the way they should go, and they will not stray from it', he explains. 'We believe that the impact we are seeing now is a result of the seed we have sown in the hearts of these children. When they grow up, we hope they will remember some of the imagery, drama and scenarios they saw – and it will still speak into their hearts. Wherever they are, if they have taken the wrong turn, they will be able to come back.'

This passion for helping children to engage with the Bible is shared by all of the staff and volunteers I speak to and their dedication to Open the Book is inspiring. It's been an amazing, eye-opening trip. My thoughts are nicely summed up by Rubby, who turns to me on the way back to the office and with a smile says, 'Open the Book has a future, a bright future, here'. I couldn't have put it better myself.



Naomi Dunn

Open the Book
International
Development
Co-ordinator

Photography by James Markham



The team of volunteer storytellers for Accra Semple school, led by Bridget (second from left)

What's on in Wales?



Ap Beibl – the Welsh Bible app

Bible Society has published Scriptures in the Welsh language for over 200 years, and now we've developed our own Welsh Bible app.

The app was first launched at the Eisteddfod in 2015. It includes all the favourite Welsh Bible translations from 1567 to the present, and each year more items are added as they are digitised.

The app is easy to use and carries no advertising. Alternatively you can view it at <https://cymraeg.global.bible>

Currently, the application has about 5,000 users mainly in the UK but also overseas, for example in Patagonia. The app is a great tool for Welsh learners, who can hear the language spoken in audio as well as reading it. You can also download an English Bible version and read it side by side with the Welsh version.

To get it on your phone, search for "ap Beibl" in the app store. Did we mention that it's free?

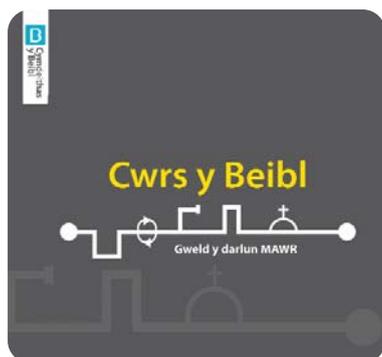


Open the Book

Open the Book, our Bible story telling programme in primary schools, has been celebrating its 20th birthday this year. It has also been celebrating another lesser-known birthday – it's been 10 years since the first handbook and the *Lion Storyteller Bible* were translated into the Welsh language! Since then, the additional handbooks have also been translated allowing a number of teams around Wales to deliver Bible stories to primary school children. We held a service at Brecon Cathedral (pictured above) in June to celebrate both

anniversaries and to thank all those involved in the continued success of Open the Book. The occasion culminated with a birthday cake and high tea. We are praying for continued growth in Open the Book teams in Wales, both in the Welsh and English language – or bilingually!

Contact us on 01793 418355 to find out where your nearest Open the Book team is located or visit biblesociety.org.uk/openthebook for more details.



The Bible Course in Welsh

We are translating *The Bible Course* into Welsh, which will be available in autumn this year. *The Bible Course* is an eight-session course helping you explore the world's bestseller. Accessible and interactive, it will enhance and inform your ongoing Bible study, whether you

are new to the Bible or want to go deeper. Using a unique storyline, the course shows how the key events, books and characters all fit together. You'll get to see the BIG picture and discover how the Bible applies to your life. Find out more biblesociety.org.uk/thebiblecourse



Mary Jones World

Mary Jones World re-opened for the 2019 season on 1 April, beginning the fifth season we have been welcoming visitors from near and far to the centre. The state of the art visitor and education centre brings Mary's story to life through multimedia and interactive displays, exhibits and activities which continue to be enjoyed by many. Awarded Visit Wales' Hidden Gem award for a third year, Mary Jones World is idyllically placed in the heart of Snowdonia National Park and on the shore of Llyn Tegid.

The Centre is also along some of the best walking and cycling routes in the UK, and the beautiful backdrop of the Welsh mountains provides an ideal rest stop for any journey. Our onsite café serves refreshments, light lunches and homemade cakes in a picturesque location with a picnic area, toilet facilities and children's playground – the perfect place for a great family day!

The Centre is open 7 days a week until Saturday 2 November from 10am - 5pm (last entry 4pm). If you would like more information please contact the Centre on 01678 521877, email centre.manager@bydmaryjonesworld.org.uk or visit our website bydmaryjonesworld.org.uk



Dai Woolridge (pictured above centre), our Creative Development Specialist, shares what he's been up to:

In December 2018, I delivered a pilot. By this I don't mean that I chauffeured the captain of an aircraft, but rather I delivered a newly developed presentation and it was the first time showcasing it. And I didn't do it alone either. Joining forces with Sound of Wales, we unpacked the Christmas story to a friendly bunch in Victory Church Cwmbran.

It was called 'That Christmas tour with song and stories' and it involved a combination of stories, spoken word, carols and comedy. Our audience were really receptive and due to the response, we're extending the tour. This year we

plan to share in five churches in England and Wales, along with two prisons.

Based on my spoken word film 'Mess' – we unpack the Christmas story in three sections; Mess, Message and Messiah. The heart of this presentation is to embrace the warm festivities of Christmas, while recognising that sometimes Christmas can be a messy time of year. Ultimately, we want to point people to the reason for the season – the one who was born 'in the mess, for our mess.' I pray that this sinks in for those who come, whether they're prisoners, churchgoers or both.

A message from China: thank you

In the last issue of *Word in Action*, we featured a story about the history of Bible work in China – and asked if you could help to keep providing God’s word to this growing Church. Your response was overwhelming.

Since the summer, readers like you have generously donated more than £100,000, which will be doubled to an amazing £200,000! Thank you so much; your kindness left us humbled and grateful.

Most importantly, you are changing people’s lives in China...



Du was one of China’s millions of migrant workers, leaving his rural town for the city – chasing work and a decent income. But urban life was grim; Du ended up working in a factory, despondent and lost.

One day, he found a pocket-sized Bible – one printed at Amity Printing Press and subsidised by someone like you – on a bed in his dormitory. Someone had left it behind. Du picked it up and started to read. ‘I realised I had been blinded by atheism to see only the physical world and material things,’ he said.

‘My heart was changed and I committed myself to the Lord.’

Today, Du lives in the town where he grew up and is training to be a church worker. He added, ‘I may not possess great wealth in this life, but I know I have no lack in the one true God.’



Photography by Annie Spratt on Unsplash



Ninety-year-old Ma Wen is full of joy. After 25 years of following Jesus, she's received her first Bible. Ma Wen got up at 3am to travel to a rural church with her daughter when she heard that Bibles were being distributed. She was one of many who raised her hand to request a Bible.

Ma Wen said, 'The Bible is very precious to me. When I became a Christian I could not read, but I have learned more and more words.' She wept as she recalled the verse that speaks to her most – 'where it says Jesus was crucified for my sins.'

And Ma Wen had a message for people like you, who helped to put the Bible into her hands: 'I want to thank you a thousand times because you are so generous. I am so happy and thankful to have a Bible today.'

Kua Wee Seng, who leads our work in China, says, 'You can count the number of seeds in an apple, but you cannot count the number of apples in a seed. Once a seed is planted and becomes an apple tree you can never tell how many apples it will produce. It's the same with the word of God. You can never tell what God can do with your gift of the Bible.'

Thank you so much for giving the gift of the Bible in China.



Fruit grower Han Xiaoling never went to school as a child because she had to help out with the family. So before she attended a scripture literacy class in her village church, supported by Bible Society, Han could barely read a word.

She crammed into the class with 120 others, and within six months she could read basic text. The result? She's been filled with confidence and passion to share God's word. 'There are opportunities everywhere,' said Han. 'I want people to know that all we have comes from God and that they should trust Him.'

Already her family, her husband's family and three of her friends have come to faith in Christ. 'After learning to read I felt more hopeful, I could appreciate the message of God for me,' added Han.



Preacher Ci Liheng has very few Bible resources and no spiritual mentors. He lives in a remote and inaccessible part of China, and juggles church ministry with farm work. For someone like Ci, born into poverty, Bible training is almost impossible to access.

However, thanks to the generosity of people like you, Ci had the opportunity to receive teaching from a team of Bible experts, sponsored by Bible Society.

'It was a real blessing to soak in the word of God, studying and meditating on it under the guidance of experienced teachers and pastors,' said Ci, who serves a congregation of 250 people. 'There have been times in the past when I was not confident that I had preached correctly. I even tried to appear knowledgeable. Now I'm much more confident.'



Claire Smith
Freelance writer

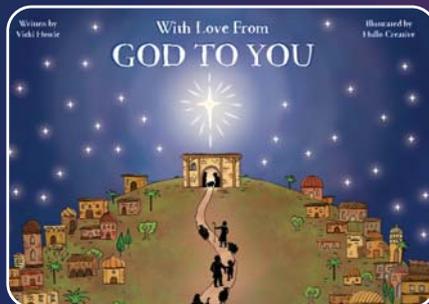
Celebrate Christmas with us!

Year after year, we remember and celebrate the miraculous birth of Jesus. But the nativity story is about so much more than a single moment in history. It's about God's love for us from the very beginning and for eternity. It's about the sure and certain hope we have in Christ Jesus.

How can we grasp the true scope and significance of the birth of Jesus? What does it mean for our past, present and future? And what about the rest of creation?

In Romans 8.20-21 Paul writes of 'the hope that creation itself would one day be set free from its slavery to decay and would share the glorious freedom of the children of God'; and Revelation 21.1 shares a vision of 'a new heaven and a new earth'.

Our prayer is that you'll be inspired with a fresh sense of awe as you celebrate the greatest gift the world has ever received and God's incredible love for you.



Children's story booklet

How do we help children understand the 'now and not yet' of the kingdom of God – the gift we've already received and the future completion we're waiting for?

In our new story, *With Love from God to You*, join us as we imagine the conversation between God and creation as it 'waits with eager longing', first for a saviour and then for everyone and everything to be made right with God.

We're winding all the way back to the beginning and zooming out to see the big picture of God's rescue plan, not just for humans but for all he has made.

***With Love from God to You* will be available for children and families to take home for free from The Entertainer toy shops around the country. Please pray for everyone who picks up a copy. This is an exciting opportunity to reach children with the good news of the Gospel.**

There will also be an animated version of *With Love from God to You* on our website for you to share in your church and with your family.

Instant nativity

Bring *With Love from God to You* to life at your church Christmas services with our instant nativity script. It's fun, memorable and interactive and you don't even need to rehearse! Download your free script and accompanying visuals online.

Stocking fillers

This Christmas, check out our range of great books for children. There are so many ways for children to read about the Christmas story, whether it's through the swashbuckling narrative in *A Pirate Christmas*, or with fun, bright and colourful interactive pages in *Bible Mini-Pops: the Christmas Story*.

There's something for children of all ages!



For young people aged 11+, have a look at our award-winning *Good News Bible – The Youth Edition*, featuring plenty of interactive elements and with accompanying YouTube videos. We think it would make a great gift for Christmas, so we're offering it for only £16.99 during the Christmas period. Similar discounts are available for our Good News Bible Purple Soft Touch and Good News Compact Bibles, suitable for any age.

Come and sing the Christmas story

Colourful carol booklets, produced in partnership with HOPE, feature the words to 12 well-known carols. They're ideal for large outdoor carol services for people of all faiths or none. Inside, the Bible story in a nutshell might show people there's more to Christmas than they think.

All our Christmas resources are available from biblesociety.org.uk/Christmas or call 01793 418222.



Christmas cards and stickers

We have a lovely selection of Christmas cards and stickers for you to order. With every purchase you'll also be supporting Bible Society's work around the world.

Just Hay in the Manger?

Just Hay in the Manger is a short booklet which unpacks the people, places and politics of Jesus' birth. Discover more about the nativity story – ideal as a Christmas service giveaway.

Charity gifts

This Christmas we are inviting people to choose a charity gift from Bible Society. There is a whole range of different gifts to choose from and each one will make a life-changing difference to people around the world. You can give Bibles for China, storytelling in schools or a Bible study and literacy classes for women in Africa. And when you buy a charity gift you can choose to receive a beautiful printed card or a link to an ecard so your friend or family member knows what a difference their gift is making too. To buy your Bible Society charity gifts this Christmas please visit biblesociety.org.uk/charitygifts



An interview with Dr Hrayr Jebejian who runs the Bible Society in the Gulf

Q: How did you come to work for Bible Society?

A: I was born in Beirut, Lebanon, but I'm an Armenian. I was born in Lebanon because of the Armenian genocide; my father was deported from his homeland to Syria and then moved to Lebanon. I lived and studied in Lebanon, completing a Masters degree in agricultural economics and was planning to work in an agricultural firm. I was also working part time with the Bible Society in Lebanon. I believe God spoke to me through my boss who said he wanted me to work full time; that was in 1980 and I've been with Bible Society ever since! I've worked almost 40 years with Bible Society, first in Lebanon for 10 years and then working in the Gulf since 1990.

Q: Which countries does the Bible Society in the Gulf work in?

A: Bible Society in the Gulf is responsible for seven countries; Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Yemen and the United Arab Emirates. We have offices in all the countries apart from Saudi Arabia, which is closed to Christian presence and we recently had to close our office in Yemen because of the civil war. We have 15 full time staff spread across the countries and many volunteers. As well as publishing and distributing the Bible in 60 languages and organising Bible engagement seminars, we partner with churches and help people to read and understand the Bible.

The total number of people in this region is around 51 million, 26 million are nationals, 25 million are foreigners; 15 million of which are labourers or migrant workers. As a Bible Society one of our primary ministries is working with these communities.

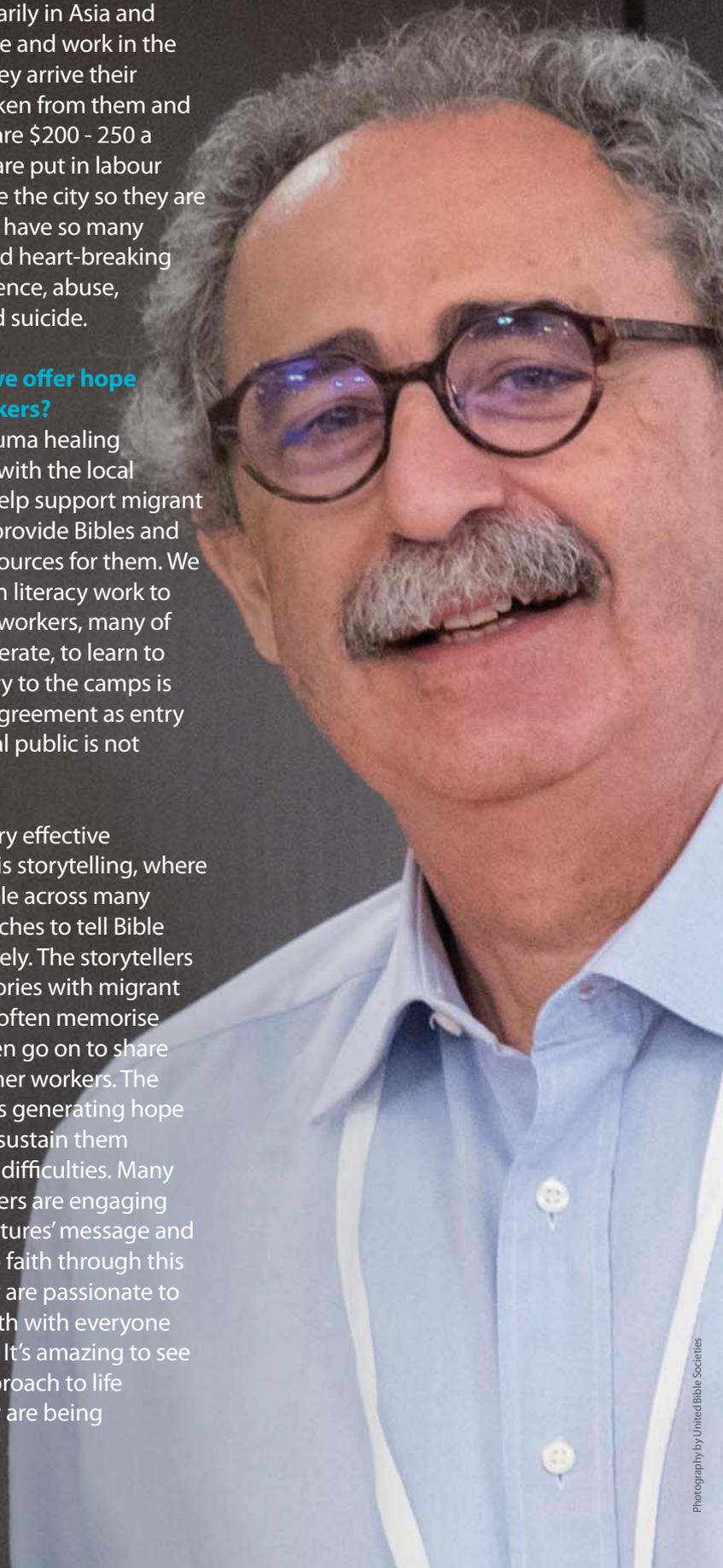
Q: What conditions do migrant workers face?

A: Migrant workers leave their families, primarily in Asia and Africa, to come and work in the Gulf. When they arrive their passport is taken from them and their salaries are \$200 - 250 a month. They are put in labour camps outside the city so they are isolated. They have so many challenges and heart-breaking stories of violence, abuse, loneliness and suicide.

Q: How can we offer hope to these workers?

A: We run trauma healing programmes with the local churches to help support migrant workers and provide Bibles and Scriptures resources for them. We are involved in literacy work to help migrant workers, many of whom are illiterate, to learn to read. Our entry to the camps is with special agreement as entry for the general public is not permitted.

One of our very effective programmes is storytelling, where we train people across many different churches to tell Bible stories creatively. The storytellers share Bible stories with migrant workers who often memorise them, and then go on to share them with other workers. The word of God is generating hope for people to sustain them through their difficulties. Many migrant workers are engaging with the Scriptures' message and are coming to faith through this ministry. They are passionate to share their faith with everyone around them. It's amazing to see how their approach to life changes; they are being transformed.



Healing the wounds of trauma in Syria

'Everyone in Syria suffers trauma,' says Nabil, who works for the Bible Society in Syria. 'We hold trauma in our bodies and in our minds. We need many books to write about our trauma.'

After more than eight years of civil war in Syria, people here are damaged. There are missing people, displaced people, people without limbs, widows, elderly people who lost their children. 'I have a five-year-old daughter who only knows war,' added Nabil. 'This is a country in need of healing.'

So what difference can the Bible make? The answer: it can restore and rebuild broken lives.

For the last four years, Bible Society in Syria has been training people in our unique clinical, Bible-based trauma healing programme. It helps people talk about their experiences, consider questions like 'why is there suffering?' and reflect on what the Bible says about their situation. It's based on the Bible, mental health practice and health psychology.

Unbelievably, given the logistical challenges of ministry in Syria, more than 400 people have been trained as volunteer facilitators so far. Based in churches, or in centres run by churches, they now run free trauma-healing workshops for anyone who wants to come.

Earlier this year, a further 42 people, including doctors, psychologists and church volunteers, travelled from across Syria to Lebanon for five days of training. That's no mean feat; Nabil, for example, had an 11-hour drive from Aleppo.

A manual for children is being developed specifically for the Syrian context. And the vision is to see churches become centres of healing across the nation.

Nabil said, 'Jesus is the healer – and we believe churches in Syria can become the hospitals. We want to help everyone, not just the Christians, to raise the hope in our community for the future of Syria.'

Nabil, like many Bible Society staff, chose to stay in Syria throughout the conflict in order to keep the doors of the bookshop open. He's witnessed violence, death and destruction first-hand – but the trauma healing has been life-changing.

'I thought we needed to be strong, and I told my parents we just needed to believe in God,' said Nabil. 'But I learned it's ok to cry, grieve, lament and complain to God – just as in the Psalms. Many people in the Bible have walked a path like ours, and God didn't leave them. Now, I read these stories and am assured that God is with me. We are not forgotten.'



Worshippers lighting candles at an Armenian church in Damascus, Syria

YOUR LETTERS & COMMENTS

Thank you so much for all the work you are doing for Jesus. I LOVE the updates of how Bible Society is supporting my family worldwide.

CHERYL, EASTLEIGH

As an Open the Book volunteer in two local schools I was most impressed by the article on the Birmingham and North East research projects. Congratulations also on going green with the potato starch wrap!

TIMOTHY, SHEFFIELD

I always enjoy the information from so many areas. Sometimes reduces me to tears and more prayers! Was very interested in OtB in Birmingham as my daughter does this in Hereford.

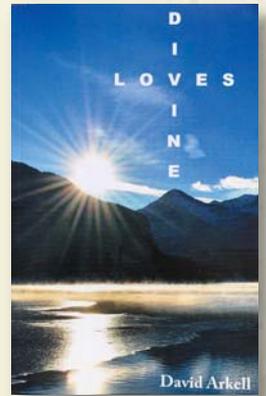
CHRISTINE, KINGTON

I wasn't going to bother to read it, but once I started I couldn't put it down. The stories are so inspiring. Thank God for so many wonderful workers in His name, working in such difficult circumstances.

RUTH, BATH

One of our supporters, David Arkell, has written a lovely book of poetry called Divine Loves and is donating all proceeds from the book to the work of Bible Society. To read samples of his poems and find out how to order go to biblesociety.org.uk/divineloves or email David at davidharkell@yahoo.co.uk

LARISSA, WORD IN ACTION EDITOR



I love reading every page. Full of information which is relevant to Christian work. I loved the article on prisons. All the letters are very encouraging. Wonderful, wonderful work you do in the name of Jesus. Amen.

ANNE, DERBY



I enjoy reading your magazine and find it encouraging and inspiring. I LOVE your new compostable envelope – I pray others follow your example!

ANNE, MARLOW

WE LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Email us your thoughts and comments at wia@biblesociety.org.uk or use the comments form attached.



Finally, build up your strength in union with the Lord and by means of his mighty power. Put on all the armour that God gives you, so that you will be able to stand up against the Devil's evil tricks. For we are not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world, the rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers of this dark age.
Ephesians 6.10-12

'Something just clicked into gear for me when I got to grips with this verse. Even though I'd been a Christian all my life, understanding this was like going from being on a winding A-road in my faith to cruising along a high-speed motorway! It might sound weird sometimes in our modern culture, but evil spiritual forces are very real. I was being devoured from time-to-time in my faith. Feelings of

guilt, condemnation, insecurity, anxiety. Every time I tried to go deeper or get free from a sin I would just fall two steps back.

'Then I understood the reality. My struggle wasn't against flesh and blood, or in my own human strength. There was an evil spiritual reality at work. The game-changer is Jesus has disarmed the power of evil through the cross and his resurrection (Colossians 2.15).

'So I took my stand' against the evil one using the advice in Ephesians 6. I found grace and freedom in place of guilt and insecurity. It was like a new life.'

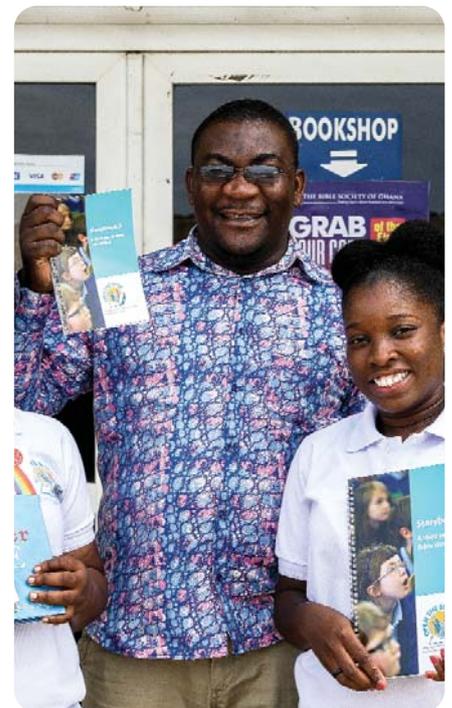
Tom Newbold
Head of Supporter Relations

Biblepeople:

'I believe children are the next generation. For me, getting children to appreciate Godly values and right living really appeals to me. I want to see these children live lives that show we have a good future. We don't want to leave a generation that is biblically illiterate. Open the Book is a programme that covers that space and helps children to appreciate these things. The Bible says we should train a child in the way they should go, and they will not stray from it.

'We believe that the impact we are seeing now is a result of the seed we have sown in the hearts of these children. When they grow up, we hope they will remember some of the imagery, drama and scenarios they saw – and it will still speak into their hearts. Wherever they are, if they have taken the wrong turn, they will be able to come back. My passion is to bring a new generation to Christ.'

Charles Twumasi
Programme Manager for OtB in Ghana



Send us your stamps

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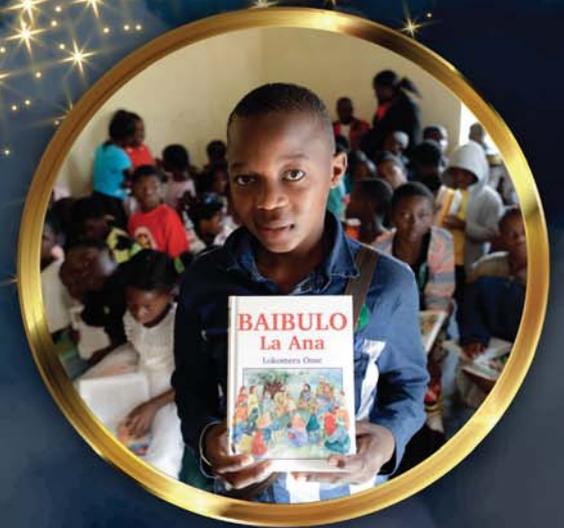




Bible
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'Let the children
come to me, and do
not hinder them, for
to such belongs the
kingdom of God.'
Luke 18.16

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