



Bible
Society

wordinaction



Bible Society's mission, thanks to your support

3 Christians battle through Covid in China with your help

4 Journey with us through Lent and Easter

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Chat with our Chief Exec



Q: 2020 was an incredibly difficult year, what can we be thankful for as Bible Society?

A: We're enormously grateful to our incredibly generous donors. We, like many organisations, were concerned about our financial situation when the pandemic first began, but we have not only been able to meet our budget and commitments, but have been able to increase our grant-making activities. Because of your generous donations, we've increased our support for Bible Societies around the world and expanded our domestic mission digitally. We've had several record breaking appeals to support that work and we're so grateful to all of our donors for their ongoing, increased support. Thank you so much for your commitment and generosity towards our mission.

Q: What are our aspirations for 2021?

A: This year, we want to release the relevance and power of the Bible's message in the context of this pandemic. We want to do that in ways that encourage the Church to be on mission in their local areas, that help grow leaders who are confident to communicate the Bible in all spheres of society and to directly engage the spiritually open who are a group who are large and growing in the midst of the pandemic.

We really hope that this will be a year of sowing into what we believe will be a harvest to come later. We believe that there is much more openness in the soil, in the ground, in the hearts of a greater number of people. To do all of that effectively means that we need to be committed to a deeper walk with Christ, a dependence on the Holy Spirit, a willingness to be led by God and care for one another in the midst of the challenges and the pressures that we all face.

Q: How can our supporters pray for us this year?

A: Please pray together for open hearts. Open hearts amongst our staff, that we might be renewed and refreshed, that the word of Christ would dwell richly in each one of us. Open hearts for our supporters, partners, volunteers, church leaders, mission agency leaders and collaborators in mission. Open hearts to give, in whatever ways are appropriate on our shared mission. Most significantly open hearts for those who are seeking, those who need to hear the message of the Bible for themselves in a fresh way, and perhaps for the first time.

Dear supporters



How are you in the midst of another lockdown? We are praying for you, for your safety and wellbeing and most of all that God will grant all of us his perfect peace throughout this difficult time.

Thank you, as always, for your amazingly generous support. Over the last year you have given so generously to our appeals, we hope you enjoy reading about how your support is changing lives.

In this edition read about the impact your support is having in China, Africa and here at home. We've also got some brilliant resources for Lent and Easter which you can find at biblesociety.org.uk/easter

Every blessing
Larissa Morava

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Front cover: A student from
Henan Bible School in
Zhangzhou. Photography by
Andrew Hood.

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

Wiltshire man leaves £100,000 in his will to train pastors in China



Photography by Dag Smeemo

Students at Hunan Bible School in China are delighted with their Bible study books, provided through gifts like Ian's

Ian wrote the final chapter in his life before he passed away recently. After taking care of his friends, he left around £100,000 in his will to train pastors in China.

China faces an acute shortage of pastors with an estimated one trained leader for every 6,700 Christians.

Ian's gift covered the short-term training costs in biblical studies for 90 preachers, sponsored three guest lecturers in the seminary and sponsored three research students' overseas study. One seminary teacher can impact 100 students, and each student that becomes a pastor can provide pastoral care and Bible teaching to an average of 800 believers.

So even though Ian has gone to glory, the impact of his generosity will be felt in China for many generations to come.

It's estimated that about one million people come to faith every year in China, and the scarcity of leadership means many Christians have little or no guidance or pastoral care. This means some may be vulnerable to being led astray or stumbling in their faith. That's why supporting and encouraging pastors is of utmost importance right now in China. Ian's generosity means more pastors will enter the mission field.

If you think you may also want to leave a gift in your will for Bible mission after taking care of your loved ones, then please take a look at our free booklet *Share your Blessings* at biblesociety.org.uk/blessings

Gifts in wills are usually given simply for Bible mission, to be used where they're needed the most. A ministry does not need to be specified, although in Ian's case pastoral care was close to his heart.

Please pray for Bible mission in China by following March's prayers in *Prayer in Action*. Pray that the standard of theological education will continue to rise and that church leaders will be protected and granted wisdom in their increasingly challenging situations.



Simon Bartz
Fundraising
Communications
Officer



Church bookstores are now open across China.

All photography by US-China Partnership

Christians battle through Covid and severe flooding in China with your help

People were quarantined because of Covid, but the gospel of the Lord is not quarantined,' said Reverend Hu, who serves with his wife in a vibrant church in China's Hubei province.

The church holds Bible study groups, prayer meetings and young adult gatherings and has a choir ministry, but like all other churches, it had to close during the pandemic. Hu, who

is in his 30s, and his wife lost a third of their income, but trusting in God and supported by your generosity, they soldiered on and reached out to their congregation in new ways. The result: when the church reopened, Hu baptised more than 30 people, most of whom were young adults. Praise the Lord!

We've heard many such stories of spiritual awakenings in China over the

last 12 months. In many cases, people stuck at home in the lockdown were simply reading more of the Scriptures, provided by you through Bible Society.

Meng Jiumei, who serves at a church in the village of Longchi in the beautiful Emei Mountains, said that one worshipper told her, 'While I was reading the book of Judges, I broke down in tears as I felt a strong conviction to repent to God of my sins.'

Another said, 'We are often too busy to spend time with God prior to this crisis. Now we are taking this time to do more self-reflection and praying.' Jiumei said, 'Starting from the book

of Genesis, these believers, young and old, read at least ten chapters a day. Some can read 50 to 80 chapters a day.'

When the virus was brought under control, some churches were allowed to reopen from June. But then, in July and August, China experienced some of its worst flooding in 70 years. These terrible disasters hampered but failed to derail Bible mission.

Your kind giving has supported more than 100 preachers and pastors in Yunnan and Hubei provinces who lost their salaries due to the lockdown, and you enabled urgent aid to be sent to 50 destitute Christians in Hubei to see them through the crisis. Then, in September, you responded to an appeal to support Bible work in China by giving more than £3500,000. It was the most successful single appeal in the history of Bible Society in England and Wales, and lays the foundation for some amazing work to take place in 2021.

Engaging with the Scriptures

An estimated one million new believers come to faith every year in China. These new Christians not only

need Bibles; they need teaching and resources to help them get more out of the Scriptures.

In August 2020, thanks to your support, Study Bibles were distributed to preachers in northwest China and Scripture-based literacy classes started. Zhao Ying took her 64-year-old grandmother, Feng Guimei, who could not read or write, to the classes. 'Besides helping my grandma, I know more about the Bible now than ever before,' Ying said. 'I'm enjoying coming to these classes more and more because I can feel the love, care and peace here.'

Supporting and nurturing leaders

With or without Covid, one of the biggest challenges facing the church in China is the lack of church leaders. It's estimated there is just one trained pastor for every 6,700 Christians on average. And many church leaders, especially in poor areas, are reliant on your continued support. The recent story of Wang Zhengrong is an excellent example of how even a small gift can make a massive difference.

Zhengrong, 37, ministers to ten different villages spread out in China's

mountainous Yunnan province. He travelled thousands of miles on foot every year, through landslides, fog and strong winds, ministering to some of the poorest people in the region. Last autumn, thanks to you, he was one of many church leaders provided with a motorcycle. Now he gets to places quickly and safely and ministers to more people. Zhengrong is a cheerful soul and full of thanks to his brothers and sisters in England and Wales.



Wang Zhengrong says he simply prays, 'Lord, you were crucified for me and whatever the difficulty I face, I will not retreat.'

Your continued generosity means more and more Chinese pastors and volunteers can be provided with quality Bible teaching tools, resources, training, and even motorbikes. It provides more scholarships for students to attend Bible school.

The impact of your giving is that millions more people will not only read the word of God, but will be helped to engage more fully with it. Their faith will be strengthened and they will be able to walk more confidently with the Lord and share the good news with others.



Zhao Ying helps her grandmother, Feng Guimei, in a Bible-based literacy class in China.



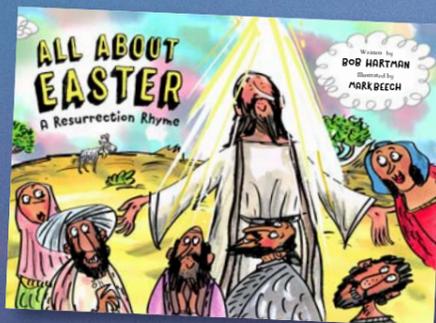
Simon Bartz
Fundraising
Communications
Officer

Journey with us through Lent and Easter

Lent is a time of reflection when we journey with Jesus on his path to the cross and celebrate his resurrection. We have a host of resources to help you reflect and celebrate. To see all of our Easter resources go to biblesociety.org.uk/easter

1

All About Easter: A Resurrection Rhyme
Our new Easter booklet for children, brought to life by the rhymes of Bob Hartman, explores the events surrounding Jesus' resurrection and why we truly celebrate Easter. There are family activity pages in the middle of the booklet, perfect as a give-away for children in your family, community and school.



We also have a webpage dedicated to family Easter activities, including games, crosswords and crafts.

2

The Lent Encounter
2021 sees the launch of The Lent Encounter. It's a brand-new way to help you focus on the Bible, the life of Jesus and your own life, in the run-up to Easter. Sign up at biblesociety.org.uk/lent2021 and you'll receive a daily email throughout Lent. You'll get beautiful pictures, Bible verses, practical challenges and personal reflections to help you encounter the Bible more deeply.



We will be exploring themes including The Beauty of Creation, Peace, Human Identity, Love and Who Jesus Was. Andrew Ollerton will be reading excerpts from his new book, *The Bible: A Story That Makes Sense of Life*, and reflecting on these themes as we journey through Lent.

The only thing you need to join in is an email address, and the determination to do something different for Lent in 2021.

It's completely free and you can eat as much chocolate as you like!

3

The Bible: A Story that Makes Sense of Life



Check out Andrew Ollerton's new book, perfect to explore the Bible more deeply this Easter. We caught up with Andrew to ask him all about it:

Why did you write The Bible: A Story That Makes Sense of Life?

AO: The quote on the back cover is a summary of why: when we make sense of the Bible, the Bible makes sense of us. I just felt that book needed to be written. I had a really interesting conversation with a parent on the touchline as our sons played football. He'd been listening to some podcasts and thinking about the Bible, but his question was, 'What's it got to do with me?' I felt moved to do something about that, so the book is my response.

You wrote parts of The Bible: A Story That Makes Sense of Life over the first lockdown. How did the events affect your writing?

AO: Ironically, I was writing the chapter on community when lockdown hit! I realised that when we are isolated from each other we become thirsty for that human interaction, which really helped me write that chapter with extra feeling. I think generally Covid-19 has shown us that we're not in control of the world as much as we thought we were, and we need each other more than we realised we did.

What are your hopes for the book? What difference do you want it to make?

AO: Well, I'm going to give the parent I met on the touchline a copy and hope he reads it! I love guiding people to places they couldn't get to on their own. I hope that's what the book does, for Christians and for those who are seeking.

With that in mind, I broke it down into short, digestible chapters so it's really accessible as a devotional guide. For anyone who's saying, 'What has the Bible got to do with me?' I hope this book finds its way into their hands and is part of their journey.

4



The Bible Series

Experience a better story
The story of life is full of questions, such as 'What's the meaning of life?' or 'What brings peace in the storms?' In the current season, these questions have become even more prominent.

This is where The Bible Series comes in. Over seven sessions your whole church will journey through the Bible and feel inspired – as they discover how it connects with our deep human need for meaning, freedom, peace, love, community and hope.

These resources are free for every church because we want to provide help and support during these challenging times.

Whether you are meeting online or in your church building, The Bible Series features a suite of free resources such as sermon messages, testimony films, Scripture reading videos, exclusive children's and youth resources and a spoken word series.

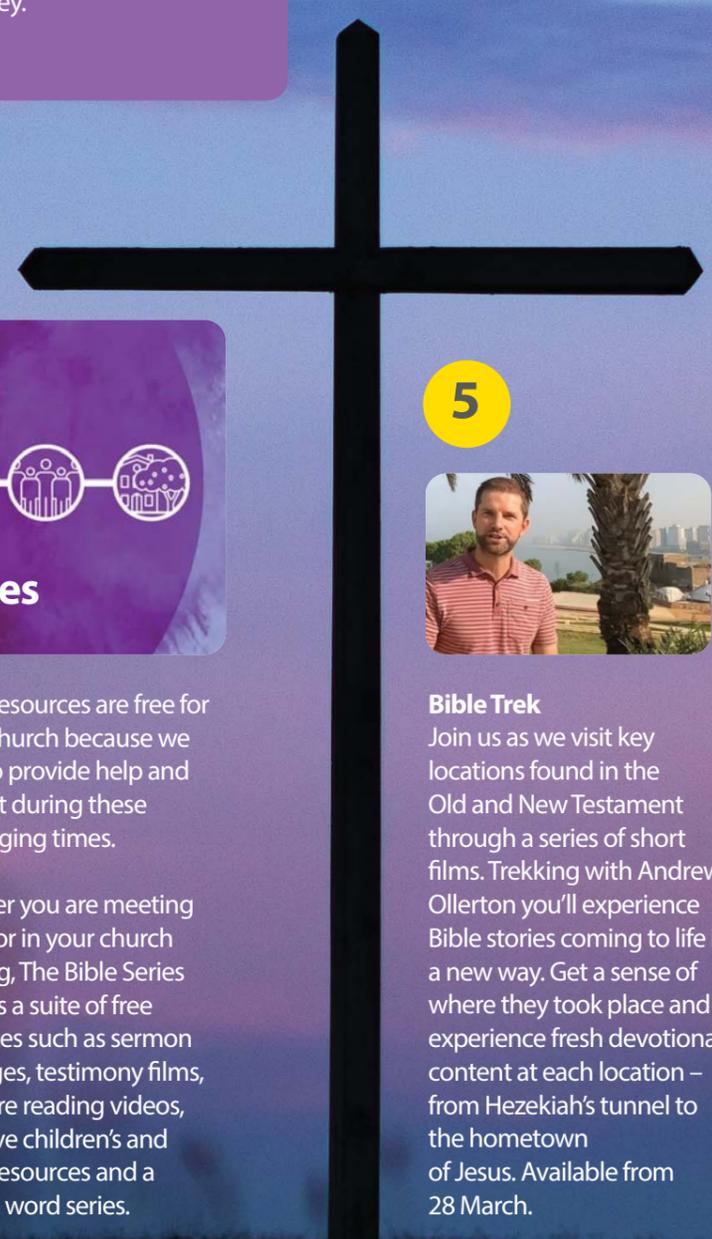
A book by Andrew Ollerton also gives a personal guide to the series with bite-size chapters and Bible readings.

5



Bible Trek

Join us as we visit key locations found in the Old and New Testament through a series of short films. Trekking with Andrew Ollerton you'll experience Bible stories coming to life in a new way. Get a sense of where they took place and experience fresh devotional content at each location – from Hezekiah's tunnel to the hometown of Jesus. Available from 28 March.



Deadly risk of Bible work in Africa

Following the murder of two Bible Society workers in Cameroon in 2020, we shine a light on the challenges of Bible work in communities targeted by Islamic extremists. And we explain why we persevere to share the Bible in the toughest, hardest places.

Forty-three-year-old Joseph cradles his sick child as he huddles in a rocky cave, high in the mountains of Cameroon's far northern region. He's with his wife and seven other children, and many other families from the village.

They're crouching silently in the darkness because they've heard that Islamic extremist group, Boko Haram, are rampaging through the area. The militants raid villages, looting and burning buildings, and kill people in the most horrific ways.

Joseph is a respected church leader and works for Bible Society as a

literacy teacher. One of the best, people said. In the cave, Joseph's poorly child starts crying. He doesn't want to put the community at risk by revealing their hiding place, so he takes his child and wife back to their home in the village.

That's where Boko Haram attackers find them. Militants smash into the house. Joseph's wife and child manage to escape, but Joseph is brutally murdered.

The killing, in September last year, shook the Bible Society family to the core. But tragically, for local Christians, the event was all too common.

It was back in 2013 that we launched a Bible translation for the Podoko (also called Parkwa) community. Most of these mountain-dwellers, who live in the far north of Cameroon, are Christians and they're known for their vibrant, active faith. Alongside translation work, we ran literacy classes to teach local people to read and write.

But soon after the project launched, Boko Haram stepped up their campaign of violence – both in Cameroon and across the border in Niger, Nigeria and Chad.

In 2019, one of our Bible translators managed to escape a Boko Haram raid on his home but was lost in the mountains for a week before anyone found him. And last year, just two months before the death of Joseph, there was another murder. Our literacy teacher, Jonas, was shot twice in the head as he stood guard outside his church building.

Luc Gnowa, who leads Bible Society in Cameroon, recently journeyed to the north of the country to see the situation for himself.

'We rode on motorbikes through village after village abandoned due to the abuses of Boko Haram,' he said. 'Health centres, schools and churches are all standing empty and abandoned.'

Luc was greeted warmly by the Podoko community. 'They were surprised at our love for them ... Nobody comes to visit them anymore,' he said. But it was late afternoon and many families had already retreated up the mountain to their night-time hiding places.

'I was able to visit Joseph's grave and pray with his friend and family member there before we had to leave,' said Luc.

Tragically, just a few hours after Luc's visit, Boko Haram attacked the community on the mountain. One man was killed. One of our Bible

translators believes he will be next – and plans are now in place to move the translation team to safety.

The risks of Bible ministry in this volatile region are enormous. So why do our teams persevere in the face of such danger?

Luc says, 'Joseph and Jonas (pictured below) were responsible for bringing the Bible to their community – and now, after their murders, our task becomes even more urgent. It is this Bible that will bring hope and heal the wounds of the Parkwa-speaking people.'



He added, 'You know, when God sends you on a mission, he doesn't tell you the conditions you will face when you go. He simply says, "Go". God sent us to these people and we

must accomplish our mission. With God, we will achieve it despite the actions of the enemy.'

Luc's extraordinary commitment to providing God's word is reflected among Bible Society leaders across the region. In Niger, Nigeria, Mali and Burkina Faso – Africa's toughest, hardest places – our teams all tell us the same thing: people are suffering, they seek hope and they long for God; we must help them.

So, despite the immense challenges, our work continues. We equip church leaders, we share God's word with families, we translate Scripture, we run Bible-based trauma healing and we teach people to read and write – so that the lives of people in the most desperate circumstances can be changed, for good.



Claire Smith
Freelance writer



Mother and daughter team, Susan and Joy, raised over £1,200 riding for Bike for Bibles.

As we all know, 2020 has been a very difficult year. However, amid all the doom and gloom, there have been pockets of loveliness, and one of those pockets was Bike for Bibles.

During September, 25 cyclists took on the challenge to ride 50 or 100 miles to raise money for Bible mission around the world. Initial plans for two marshalled courses, motivational speakers and post-ride massages were thwarted by Covid-19. So, these incredible people adapted their rides to follow government guidelines, organising their own support vehicles as well as planning new routes, and by the end of September they had ridden a combined 1,650 miles and raised over £9,000 for the work of Bible Society.



Jamie (pictured above) rode 100 miles on Saturday 19 September with a small, socially distanced team in Swindon. When asked about his experience and why he took part, he told us:

'As someone who has faced ongoing mental health challenges, cycling and God have played a big part in helping me move forward. So many of us are blessed with so much in life, and being able to raise money and awareness, to provide a book that gives so much hope, joy and courage, is priceless.'

Another team were mother and daughter, Susan and Joy Wingrave. They rode 102 miles through some horrendous weather. Susan said:

'I love cycling and I love the Bible but I was a bit concerned about asking people to sponsor me to do something that I love doing. So, I knew that I had to really push myself in terms of distance. We gave ourselves a fundraising target of £500 and we have currently raised just over £1,200!'

We are so grateful for the commitment, enthusiasm and generosity of our Bike for Bibles team and we pray for an even better experience, together, next year. If this is something you would like to take part in, visit biblesociety.org.uk/bikeforbibles for the latest updates on new rides.

You could also join our Bike for Bibles group on Facebook and be part of the conversation.



Abbie Doyle
Fundraising Campaigns Officer

Bible ministry you saved in 2020

When the coronavirus pandemic hit and lockdown was triggered, 88 Bible Societies found themselves at risk of imminent closure. Thankfully, you stepped in. Supporters donated an overwhelming £800,000 to save Bible ministries around the world. This is a taste of what your incredible generosity achieved in the most difficult of years.

£800,000 donated by generous people like you since April 2020

35 Bible Societies so far have received vital support.

360m people will benefit from saved Bible translation projects

Albania

1 translation project:
3m people
5 youth, children and engagement ministries:
400k people

'Your support was our only lifeline. It meant we could continue with ministry, especially the translation, which is at a crucial point.'
Altin Hysi, General Secretary

Argentina

3 translation projects:
63k people
3 youth and engagement ministries:
25k people

'My heart is full of thankfulness to you. I have a deep conviction that the Lord is opening a new door for Bible ministry.'
Ruben del Ré, General Secretary

Bulgaria

1 translation project:
8.1m people
2 ministries for orphans, prisoners and blind people:
4k people

'As 1 Corinthians says, "If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it."
Radoslav Apostolov, General Secretary

Eswatini

2 translation projects:
2.4m people
6 other projects: **89k** people

'We now feel very hopeful for the future. Your support will launch the SiSwati Study Bible – a long-awaited Bible which will be released in a time of great hunger for the word of God.'
Ngcebo Mbuli, General Secretary

Mozambique

7 translation projects:
15.4m people
3 other ministries:
132k people

'I was in despair, having sleepless nights. But I kept praying and the answer came. Your support means God won't allow Covid-19 to stop people getting his word.'
Valente Tseco, General Secretary

Namibia

5 translation projects:
2.6m people

'I am concerned about our survival in the long run, but your support brought security and relief for the months ahead. People here are overwhelmed with fear and are searching for hope to sustain them spiritually.'
Schalk Botha, General Secretary

In a time of crisis, your commitment to Bible ministry and your care for communities around the world shone through.

Thank you so much.



Want to create your own Psalm 23 community garden? Sign up for resources at biblesociety.org.uk/23community

outside their normal life and find what God has to offer,' she adds.

One of those for whom this is true is 48-year-old Julie Dollin. Shielding for many months due to health issues, Julie's first trip outside her house was to see the garden, named 23, after the Psalm. 'I walked round the corner of the building and saw the garden for the first time, and it overwhelmed me,' she says. 'I was blown away by it. The garden gives me hope, a sense of well-being. Knowing I can come and sit here whenever life gets on top of me is great. It brings me closer to God.'

One of the key creators of the garden was Keith Gillings (67), a retired engineer with a passion for gardening. Used to being busy and active, the lockdown was especially hard for Keith. 'It was a fantastic time to be doing this,' he says, 'which may sound strange. But gardening really does restore your soul. It's a special garden to me. The bonus is that it's being well-used.'

Anyone can use the garden at any time. But it's already being adopted for more formal purposes. It became part of a nature trail across the town, and is used for family events, prayer walks and outdoor services. There are also plans for the nearby school to use the garden.

'Despite lockdown, we found creating this garden easy to do,' says Gill. 'It's a fantastic way to connect with the community. It's a great opportunity.'

Find out more at psalm23garden.co.uk



Hazel Southam
Psalm 23 Garden Project Manager

How a lockdown community garden gave a town hope

During lockdown, the first community garden inspired by the Psalm 23 Garden was created outside St Mary's Church in Tadley, near Basingstoke. It became a symbol of hope for people across the community.

A labyrinth of wild flowers, some espaliered cherry trees, and logs to sit on became the focal point of the local community. 'Lockdown felt like a cruel blow to our plans,' says minister, Revd Gill Sakakini, 'but it's been a complete blessing, because it's given the garden a deeper meaning for the public.'

That meaning is hope. 'There was a sense in the community that something was happening,' she says. 'When we planted it, we could barely see the seeds. But week by week things grew and there was something that people could engage with when there was very little going on.'

Now, she says, the garden has become 'a focal point for the community.' 'My vision and my hope is that the garden will be a real place where people can connect with the natural world, a place that roots them, a place where they step



Rooted for a friend



Rooted is a devotional subscription box that gets posted through your door, every two months. Inside, creative resources will help you grow deep spiritual roots so you can flourish in your walk with God.

Receive Rooted emails to help you explore each theme further and grow deeper. You'll get inspiring stories and bonus content, with useful prompts and reminders.

Your monthly donation of £10 will not only deliver you a Rooted box, but will go to Bible Society projects around the world, changing the lives of those who most need to hear God's love and hope.

You can also gift Rooted to a friend or relative. You send your monthly donation of £10 or more, and the wonderful themed box of Bible content gets delivered straight to your friend or family member – at no cost to them.

Find out more at biblesociety.org.uk/rooted

You could give the gift of a Bible by volunteering your time

Imagine you're a Christian unable to read a Bible in your own language – even though you know one exists.



Imagine taking part in the painstaking task of Bible translation, knowing your work could be finished three times as quickly because someone's been there before you.

Imagine seeing a young person on their mobile, knowing they'd like to be reading their Bible on it – but they can't.

These are real scenarios. And it's because there are many Bible translations made just a few decades ago that can't be reprinted, shared or uploaded, because they've never

been digitised. Technology has moved on. There might be just a few copies left gathering dust on a shelf or in a library.

That's why Bible Society, Wycliffe and Mission Assist have come together in a Bible Digitisation Project. We're seeking volunteers who are patient, accurate and can use a computer to copy older translations word by word. It's a fascinating and satisfying volunteering role that can see believers read the Bible in their heart language, perhaps for the first time.

We'll help you find out whether this is for you and offer you full training. To find out more, contact Volunteer Enquiries: volunteers@missionassist.org.uk

YOUR LETTERS & COMMENTS

I enjoy reading *Word in Action*. I feel humble when I read that in these difficult times, this work continues. May God bless and watch over all those who put their own lives at risk for the sake of the gospel. Thank you.

JOY, PLYMOUTH

I did so much enjoy this edition of *WIA* - a ray of light in these difficult times. It's amazing what the Lord is doing.

MAUREEN, ORPINGTON

We appreciate *Word in Action*. It is good to know God's word is distributed in countries torn with war and local oppression. Wonderful that it is in their own mother tongue. May many come to salvation through your efforts.

RICHARD, CRAIGAVON

It is a smashing magazine. Really informative. A great BIG thank you for the lovely postcards you send. They are all on my fridge.

MRS DUNGWORTH, ROSSENDALE

I thank you for *Word in Action*. It is informative and helps me understand what Bible Society is doing around the world. Thank you.

PAUL, LONDON



Dear Readers
We hope you had a lovely Christmas, despite the difficult circumstances we experienced last year. Thank you to the thousands of you who ordered our Christmas resources. We are aware of occasional late postage arrivals from the middle of November and we want to apologise to everyone who didn't receive their orders in good time. Record orders, coupled with delays in the postal service, meant some of you received your orders later than you should have. We sincerely apologise for these delays. We are working to ensure that doesn't happen again with our resources. Thank you again for your fantastic support.

Every blessing

LARISSA, WORD IN ACTION EDITOR

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



'God is good' is a repeated phrase appearing in many places throughout the Bible, especially in the Psalms (34.8, 86.5, 107.1 and more). Often the psalmist explains that the reasons to make such a decisive statement are God's steadfast love, protection and faithfulness. We also read in the New Testament the bold declaration: 'Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights' (James 1.17, ESV). In the eyes of the author of James, every piece of goodness is from God and he is unchangingly giving these good things to all of us.

I am Chinese and was born after the Cultural Revolution. As I grew up I was accompanied with dramatic and rapid social change, containing many unpredictable and sudden events. To be a Chinese Christian in such an era is not easy. But I do testify that God is still good in all these ups and downs, even in the darkest moments.

Arleen Luo
China Mission Specialist at Bible Society

Biblepeople:



When I was a child, I had some pretty amazing Sunday school teachers. They were passionate about passing on God's story. There wasn't much in the way of technology, mind you. Shoving a flannel graph camel from one end of the board to the other was about as sophisticated as it got! But that's not what mattered. It was their love of Jesus, and their commitment to sharing his story with us, faithfully, week after week, that made the difference.

I'd like to think that the passion for God's story that I experienced as a child found its way into *The Lion Storyteller Bible*. And I am confident that the same passion drives our Open the Book volunteers to bring those stories so effectively to life. They love the stories. They love the kids they serve. So thank you, Bible Society, for all you do to support that passion!

Bob Hartman
Author of our upcoming Easter children's booklet *All About Easter: A Resurrection Rhyme*



Updates to our privacy policy

We value our relationship with you. We respect your privacy and want to communicate with you in a way that suits you, in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UKGDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (including legislation made under the 2018 Act). Your privacy is important to us and our updated policy explains how we use your personal information and keep it secure.

To read the privacy policy please visit biblesociety.org.uk/privacy/

Photography by Lagos Techie on Unsplash



Mark the season of Lent in a new way with The Lent Encounter

Sign up for free today at biblesociety.org.uk/lent2021 and receive a daily email throughout Lent, packed full of delicious content to help you connect with the Bible and the life of Jesus.

The content of The Lent Encounter follows the narrative of Andrew Ollerton's new book, *The Bible: A Story That Makes Sense of Life*. You don't need the book to enjoy The Lent Encounter but you'll have the opportunity to buy it with 40% off!

You will receive Bible verses, beautiful images,
personal reflection videos and practical challenges.
And you can still eat chocolate!