



Bible  
Society

# word in action

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Welcome to February's edition of Word in Action where we welcome Paul Williams, our new Chief Executive and hear about his love for the Bible. We are so grateful for your faithful prayers and support and we really value your feedback. You will find our Supporter Questionnaire enclosed, please could you complete and send it back in the enclosed envelope (or you can complete it online at [biblesociety.org.uk/questionnaire](http://biblesociety.org.uk/questionnaire)) - what you think matters to us!

Enjoy reading and please pray for us over the coming months with Prayer in Action.

Every blessing  
Larissa  
Word in Action editor



## Let's meet our new Chief Executive



Photography by Layron Thompson

### Hi Paul, tell us about yourself:

I spent the last 11 years as a faculty member teaching at Regent College, a theological school in Vancouver, Canada. I was a professor of marketplace theology and leadership which is thinking theologically about the relationship between the Bible and faith on the one hand and our working lives in the world on the other.

### It's a big move from Canada to England, what inspired you about Bible Society to move across continents?

What inspired me was the opportunity to be part of equipping the church to read the Bible well and promoting the positive role of the Bible in wider society. I think that the church in Britain has lost confidence in the Bible for a whole host of different reasons and that leads to losing confidence in the gospel. There's a huge missional challenge as the church is being mobilised by God in the West to recover our confidence in the Bible and I see Bible Society's work in Bible engagement and advocacy helping the church gain confidence in the Bible again.

### What message would you like to share with our supporters?

I am genuinely moved and delighted by the breadth and depth of support that Bible Society has and I'm very grateful to our supporters for their

faithfulness and constancy giving regularly for many years across a range of projects.

My commitment to you is that we are first of all about bringing more people into a living encounter with the Bible and bringing that encounter to impact all of their lives, all of our lives and all of society. We believe that just as Jesus is calling us to follow him and be disciples in all of life that the Bible brings life into every aspect of what we're doing.

### And finally, please could you share your favourite Bible passage with us?

I love Philippians. I'm very moved by the glorious Christ hymn in Philippians 2 and challenged by the introduction that Paul brings to it about considering others as better than yourself. This is followed by some of my favourite verses, 'that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.' (Philippians 3.10 – 11 ESV)

That has to be our motivation for engaging with the Bible, it's not ultimately for the Bible itself but it's to know Christ and become like him even in his death and to know the power of his resurrection.

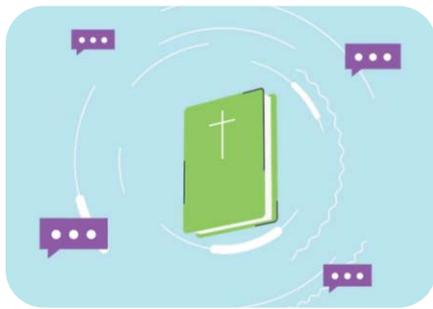
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Front cover photography by  
Clare Kendall





## Bible Book Club

### Love books? Love book clubs?

New for 2017, we're bringing you Bible Book Club – to help you read the Bible with your friends, one book at a time. Did you know it takes only 4 minutes to read Jude, and 45 minutes to read Hebrews? That's less time than it takes to read most novels.

'The Bible is full of books, but often we only read small sections of them, and there are some many of us never go near,' says theologian-in-residence, Paula Gooder. 'I want Bible Book Club to remind people that the Bible is theirs to own, read, question and discuss – and if that's over a favourite drink with a group of friends, then all the better!'

You can download a reader's guide to each book of the Bible for free at [biblesociety.org.uk/biblebookclub](http://biblesociety.org.uk/biblebookclub) or call 01793 418222 for more information.

Share your Bible Book Club adventures on social media using the hashtag #biblebookclub

## Mary Jones World set for 2017 opening



Mary Jones World, our visitor centre in Llanycil, Wales, is opening for its 2017 season on Saturday 1 April. More than 12,000 people have visited the centre over the past two years, and it has a 4.5 out of 5-star rating on travel review website, TripAdvisor.

This year, we are expecting more church and school groups. We have developed school workbooks about Mary Jones and the history of the Bible in Wales, and have a number of activities for children. To find out about opening times and admission charges, visit [bydmaryjonesworld.org.uk](http://bydmaryjonesworld.org.uk)

**Come and visit us, we'd love to see you!**

## You and your Bible

**The Bible – challenging, inspiring, relevant?** Last September many of you completed our online survey about how you read your Bible and we're delighted that over 3,700 of you responded.

Revealing that 92% read the Bible every week and 63% everyday, it has given us a real insight into how we can support you and your Bible reading, so please watch this space for what we've got

planned for you next. If you'd like to see all the results go to [biblesociety.org.uk/youandyourbible](http://biblesociety.org.uk/youandyourbible) or call 01793 418222.

### 5 most favourite books

John  
Psalms  
Luke  
Ruth  
Romans

### 5 least favourite books

Leviticus  
Numbers  
Revelation  
Song of Songs  
Lamentations

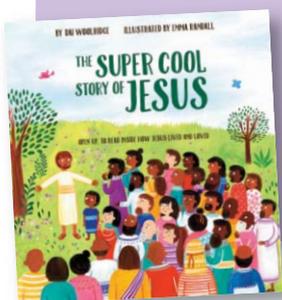
## Easter resources

Following the hugely popular *Well Good News of Christmas*, Dai Woolridge and Emma Randall

have teamed up again bringing us **The Super Cool Story of Jesus**. Dai's quirky verse is popular with children and adults alike, and is complemented by Emma's beautiful illustrations. Booklets can be purchased at a subsidised cost\*

by calling 01793 418300. Free accompanying Easter resources including a video, colouring pages and an Easter trail are also available online at [biblesociety.org.uk/easter](http://biblesociety.org.uk/easter)

\*50p per copy for orders of 10 or more



# A very happy day

**'I would never have believed that I would have a Bible,' says 74-year-old Zhang Yaofang, 'let alone one in my own language.'**

Zhang Yaofang (on the front cover) is a farmer living high up in the Cloudy Mountains in the south of China. She's a member of the Black Yi tribe, one of China's 55 ethnic minorities. Thanks to your help and generosity, a translation of the Bible in the Yi language was published in October 2016. Local church leaders spent a day delivering copies to people in the local town and Zhang Yaofang's village of Zhi Chao.

'I lived through the Cultural Revolution,' says Zhang Yaofang. 'People used to copy bits of the Bible for us in the Yi language. It was definitely difficult.

We couldn't worship freely. So it was such a happy day when the Bible arrived. I was so happy.'

Zhang Wenfu (76) is the local pastor in Zhang Yaofang's village. He helped to deliver the Bibles to Yaofang and dozens more like her. He was also involved in the translation of the Bible into the Yi language. 'With God's grace, it's been a great year,' he says. 'I was involved in the translation for 14 years and now we have received the fruits of that.'

He recalls the day that the Bibles arrived. 'It was a very happy day,' he says. 'My greatest hope has been realised.'

Wenfu lived through the Cultural Revolution, when the Bible was a banned book in China. He walks up to the brick wall of his church and shows me what he used to do at home during that time. 'We dug out gaps in the wall,' he says, 'and hid the Bible in it. Sometimes we took

it out and read it if we could. So you can imagine that now to be able to read the Bible at any time, anywhere and to preach sermons to a congregation is amazing.'

Zhang Yaofang lives some 2,800m up in the mountains that border Burma to the south. Her village is twice as high as the top of Ben Nevis. She lives in a white house with a traditional pan-tiled roof, with her husband 80-year-old Wang Yingzhen, her daughter-in-law Li Zhiying and grandson, Wang Liancun.

A white, concrete path leads from her house at the end of the village through twists and turns to the rest of the homes, in which around 200 people live. There are no cars. We offer Zhang Yaofang a lift, and she turns us down flat, 'I'll get car sick,' she says. Still sprightly, she walks everywhere, carrying her Bible in a colourful bag.

*Women from the Black Yi tribe with their new Bibles*





But here's a twist in the tale: Zhang Yaofang is illiterate. So she can't read her newly-translated Bible. The good news is that local church leaders set up literacy classes this January and both Yaofang and Yingzhen will be learning to read, through the pages of the Bible.

But already, Yaofang has bookmarked verses that she loves in the Bible. Her favourite is the baptism of Jesus. Yaofang has lived in the village all her life. Having dislocated a shoulder a decade ago, she no longer works in the family's fields. Instead, she stays at home and tends the four cows, a pig, 34 chickens and two dogs that make

up their livestock. Right now, the maize harvest is in. Despite a dry summer, it's been a good yield and the house is draped with cords of drying maize. The walnut tree outside her front door has also yielded a decent crop this year, and Yaofang is busy bagging up the nuts for winter. She wears traditional clothing, speaks only Yi, not Mandarin, and is one of some 4 million Black Yi people living in the region.

Back in the provincial capital, Kunming, I ask Zhang Xuecai, one of the translators, why this translation is so significant. 'In rural areas,' he says, 'many people have

relied on listening to the gospel being preached. Very few had the opportunity to read the Bible. Very few could understand Chinese. Now that the Bible is in the Black Yi language, they'll be able to understand that God created them.

'They'll be able to read it for themselves. They can know Jesus for themselves now,' he says.

In the village, an ancient way of life continues. But, with the arrival of the Black Yi Bible, things have significantly changed. Zhang Yaofang and her family now have the chance to meet with God through the pages of the Bible in their own home: a truly life-changing experience.



**Hazel Southam**

Chief reporter



Photography by Clare Kendall

# Ministry in the midst of danger

Anthony Lamuel (bottom right) arrives at the office. He passes the steel reinforced concrete planters, which prevent cars ramming the building. Notes the 16 CCTV cameras circling the building. Walks through an airport-style scanner and down a narrow, 10ft-long corridor lined with steel-reinforced doors. In the reception area he greets security staff, who have guns slung over their shoulders, and stretches out his arms to be frisked while someone searches his bag.

This is Bible Society in Pakistan. This is what our ministry looks like in one of the most dangerous countries in the world in which to be a Christian<sup>1</sup>.

'Let me be honest,' said Anthony, who has led our work in Pakistan for almost 20 years. 'In the back of the mind, the fear is always there. But in the jungle you have wolves and tigers – and the rabbit has to come out of his hole some time.'

## The Christian minority

Christians are in the tiny minority in this country – some 2.5 million people, around 1.6% of the population. Most are rural people, and 80% live below the poverty line. They are the cotton pickers, the factory workers, the cleaners and labourers. In the city they live in slums and shanty towns. Most face exploitation, prejudice and oppression. Since the 9/11 attacks in America, pressure on Christians has intensified. 'The problem is that we are identified as Westerners,' said Anthony. 'At the same time, radicals label every non-Muslim as an infidel – and killing them is a big honour.

There has been a spate of deadly assaults in recent years. Back in 2009, a church and homes were torched, and eight people were burnt alive. In 2013, 18 people were killed in a twin-suicide bombing at a Peshawar church. Two blasts at churches in March 2015 killed 14 people and injured more than 70. And last Easter Sunday, 75 people, including many children, were murdered when a suicide bomber targeted a Lahore park.

Bible Society's bookshop in Karachi was attacked too, just over 10 years ago. But Anthony is a high profile figure in Pakistan, and his reputation and Bible Society's credibility affords a level of protection. 'Many Muslim groups take out magazine ads to try to discredit us, but we are a respected organisation,' he said. 'The government wants to protect freedom of worship and needs to show it is taking action against terrorists.'

As well as helping to install the security measures at our head office, the authorities dispatch two police officers every week to stand guard over Anthony's church. The armed officers sit in the tower at St Andrew's, in Lahore, during services and visitors are questioned before entering.

So what is Bible Society doing in the face of such tremendous challenges? Anthony has two key aims: to strengthen the Church, and share God's word.

## Strengthen the Church

'This is a marginalised Church,' said Anthony, 'so when Christians brush shoulders with others in open society, their beliefs are challenged. If they are well equipped, they can withstand the pressure.'

In the two decades since he's been in charge, Anthony has produced two children's Bibles, two study Bibles, one New Testament with notes, a full Sunday school curriculum for children and has equipped seminary students. He focuses on young people because a staggering 46% of Pakistan's population is under 15 and a further 22% is aged 16 to 30. 'The Church here is one generation away from extinction,' he says.



He's also launched a Bible-based literacy programme because so many women and girls, in particular, are illiterate. 'Only half of school age children go to school, and half of those drop out within three years,' said Anthony. 'That's a challenge.'

'We focus on women because mothers are pivotal in Pakistani culture; a mother who reads the Bible to her children will bring light into the whole family.'



**Share God's word**

Anthony's other key aim – to share God's word in this difficult context – is the work that puts him in real danger. But he's smart, and careful. 'Constitutionally, I have a right to worship, evangelise and buy and sell Bibles – but it's not wise to do some things,' he says.

More than 40,000 Bibles a year are sold from our shop in Lahore, to anyone who wants to buy one. And we are constantly replacing the stock of New Testaments in hospitals as so many are pocketed and taken home by patients.

'For every Bible which goes out,' says Anthony with a smile, 'it's my vision and prayer that the Holy Spirit will speak to the reader.'

'I could have left Pakistan many years ago,' he reflects. 'But this work is a commitment, a calling. It's not easy, but if we leave, what will happen? Christians are fearful and need support. And for those who are seeking out the truth, we must be here to serve them.'

'Pakistan is number six on Open Doors' World Watch list 2016, with 'extreme levels of persecution' against Christians. It comes behind North Korea, Iraq, Eritrea, Afghanistan and Syria.



**Claire Smith**  
Freelance writer

# Bringing the Bible to life in Latin America

In three countries in Latin America, you'll find some of our most pioneering, cutting-edge work, which has the potential to transform whole societies through God's word.

We call the work Bible advocacy – and it's about helping Christians and the Church engage with the Bible, and making a case for its relevance to government, education, business and all other areas of public life.

But across Latin America, the overwhelming majority of people (just over 90%) identify themselves as Christian<sup>1</sup>. In fact, it's the least religiously diverse place on earth. So why is there still a need to advocate for God's word?

Our staff say that, for whatever reason, people's faith is not shaping society in countries like Guatemala, Costa Rica and Argentina. That's why, outside of war zones, a third of murders in the world occur in Latin America, even though less than 10% of the global population lives there<sup>2</sup>. 15,000 children a year fall victim to sexual exploitation every year in Guatemala<sup>3</sup>. And 41 of the 50 most dangerous cities in the world are in Latin America<sup>4</sup>.

This is a region beset by deep-rooted challenges – drug trafficking, gang wars, political instability, corruption and poverty – where God's word is needed most.

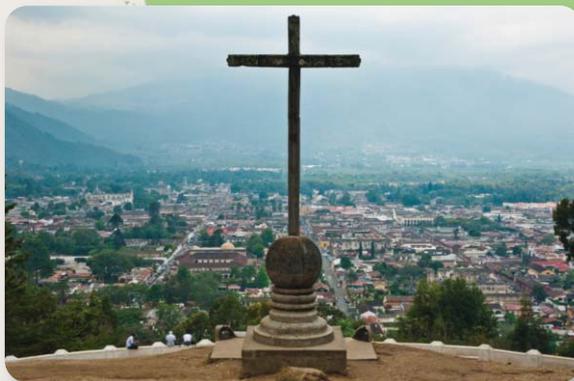
<sup>1</sup> Christianity in its Global Context 1970-2020,

Center for the Study of Global Christianity

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime

<sup>3</sup> American Bible Society

<sup>4</sup> Mexico Citizens Council for Public Security



A view of Antigua Guatemala from Cerro de la Cruz (Hill of the Cross)

## Guatemala

September 2015 was a key moment in Guatemala's history.

A campaign of social protests succeeded in peacefully overthrowing the regime of President Otto Pérez Molina. He was accused of leading a corrupt network of politicians and customs officials, and is now in jail along with Vice-President Roxana Baldetti.

During the biggest march, 120,000 people turned out to protest against the government – and the Bible was right at the heart of the public debate, thanks to our team in Guatemala. They launched a huge advertising campaign, featuring words of Scripture, particularly Exodus 18.21: 'Look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs.'

More than two million people were reached by the campaign, which was carried out in the national media, including newspapers, television and radio, on social media and on public billboards in various cities. Audio messages about the campaign were translated and broadcast in the five largest indigenous languages, and more than 100,000 leaflets were distributed, including Braille versions. Marco V. Martinez, Director of Programmes and Projects, said, 'We wanted to share the prophetic voice of the Bible. Our campaign promoted justice, the election of people of integrity, and how to choose a government that God wants.'

He added, 'We need prayer now to see this seed of the Bible flourish and make a significant transformation in our society. We need to rebuild our society on the ethics and values of the Bible, we need to recover the Bible's values in our government and society!'



A press article and poster from the campaign in Guatemala



Children with a calendar which uses Scripture translated by local people, set to form the foundation for the first translation of the New Testament for the Ngäbe of Costa Rica

## Costa Rica

'Religious people are old and ignorant – that's the idea being promoted in our society,' says **Mayra Ugalde, General Secretary for Bible Society in Costa Rica.** 'So we're presenting the Bible as the book of the intelligent and open-minded.' Costa Rica, one of the few countries in the world that holds Christianity as its official state religion, according to the 1949 Constitution, is changing. 'Secularists are becoming increasingly noisy,' says Mayra. 'If this continues, we will lose the young people and children from the Church.'

Mayra is leading a programme of creative public Bible projects which seek to change perceptions of God's word. She's run a conference on philosophy at a top university, and has joined forces with a famous lawyer to produce a book on Proverbs. She's also setting up the Institute of Biblical Studies offering quality Bible teaching to equip pastors. More than 90 people have signed up for the first 18-month course.



Photography by Ralph Hodgson

**'Pray for us to have courage,' said Mayra. 'We have a challenge to keep the Bible message in politics, schools and new universities. The secularist movement seeks to ban the Bible from all those places.'**

## Argentina

More than 35 million people in this vast country consider themselves to be Christians – but only a third say religion is very important in their lives<sup>5</sup>, and society is becoming increasingly secular.

Bible Society is targeting future influencers and culture-shapers to show that the Bible has something to say about life today. We're working with the largest distance-learning university in Argentina and are running church-based, café-style group discussions and workshops with some of the brightest students – the lawyers, politicians, financiers and journalists of the future.

**Marcos Buzzelli, Director of Bible Advocacy, said,** 'In Argentina, when it comes to the public arena, you keep your beliefs to yourself. The Bible helps us in our personal life, but we don't know how to use it professionally or vocationally.'

'We lose people from the Church between the ages of 18 and 35. In that time, they make the most important decisions of their lives. We want to help college students develop a biblical worldview, see that the Bible is relevant and equip them to defend Christianity in the public arena.'

<sup>5</sup> Pew Center report, 2015



A conference with college students and young professionals at one of the university study sites in Argentina



# Congo

**In a bare church hall in Ouessou, Congo Brazzaville,** in central western Africa, a small boy is stomping menacingly towards his Sunday school classmate. Excited children dance around him, as his victim cowers dramatically.

This is how children in Africa are bringing the words of Jesus to life – literally. It's our Good Samaritan programme, in which participants re-enact the famous parable and wring every drop of wisdom from the story as they discuss its everyday application.

Viviane Bolette (pictured below), 41, leads a Good Samaritan group at a primary school in Congo Brazzaville. She said, 'We use the story to prepare the children for the challenges they will face in life. They discover so many things through the simple story.'

That includes how to stay safe in a country where an estimated 79,000 children are HIV positive, how to be compassionate in a society that remains torn by conflict, and how

to make good life choices against Congo Brazzaville's backdrop of coups, revolutions and distrust in government.

The programme has been running in Congo Brazzaville since 2011, and thousands of children aged 4 – 15 have benefitted. It takes place in schools, churches, orphanages and youth groups. Recently, the programme was incorporated in the country's national strategy to fight HIV/AIDS.

In 2017, we aim to train 75 new Good Samaritan teachers, and distribute 7,000 copies of Luke's gospel to every child who attends the sessions.

Across Africa, more than 800,000 people have taken part in the Good Samaritan training – which, for adults, concentrates on dispelling myths about HIV/AIDS, encouraging healthy life choices and fostering a compassionate response to those with the virus. Last year, with funding from around the world, almost £300,000 was invested in the programme spanning nine African



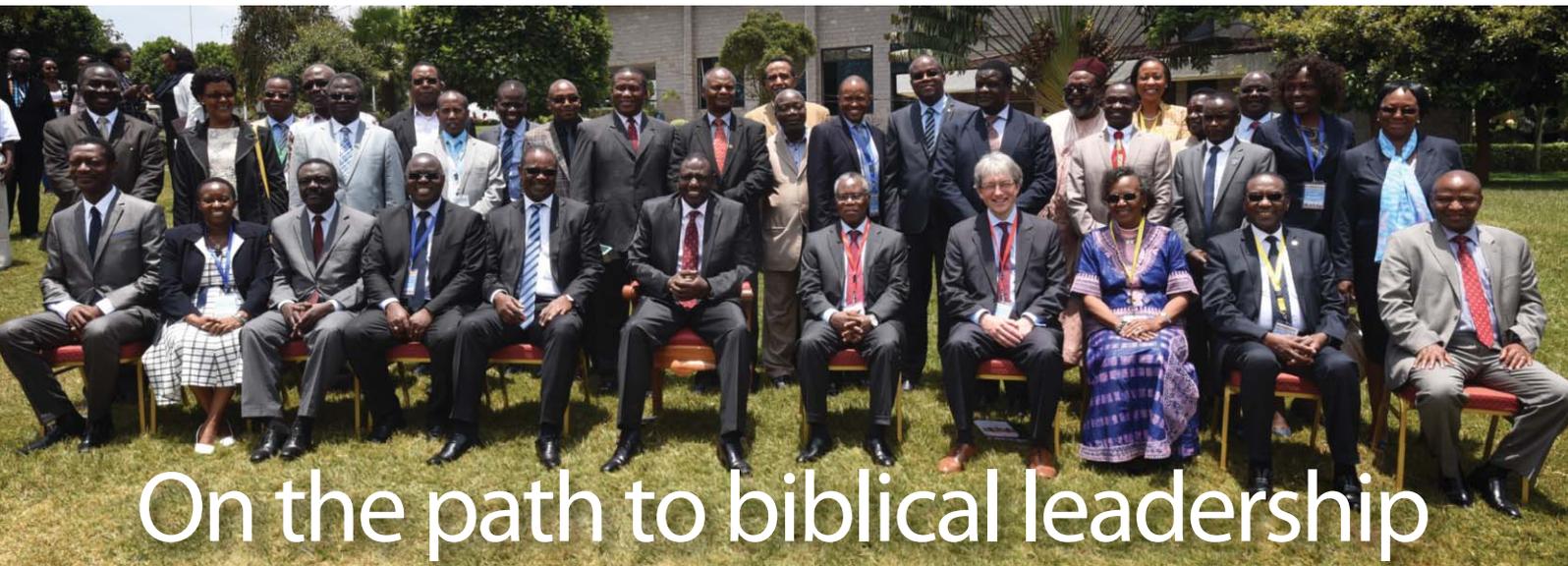
Photography by Clare Kendall

countries. It shows Bible Society's commitment to reaching the most marginalised communities in Africa with God's word.

For Viviane, a teacher and mother herself, the programme helps children see that the Bible offers wisdom which can shape their lives, for good. 'The Bible is a guide for my life. For some children who come to us, it's the first time they've heard the story of the Good Samaritan,' said Viviane.

'Perhaps their parents have told them, but often they haven't because we don't have many Bibles here. We use the story to talk about hygiene and healthy living, and help children be careful. The children love the Good Samaritan programme.'





# On the path to biblical leadership

**It was a sunny, blue-skied day when some 450 people from more than 20 African nations met in Nairobi, Kenya, for the African Biblical Leadership Initiative (ABLI) forum in September.**

Now in its sixth year, the event, backed by Bible Society, draws together clerics, MPs and civil servants. Its aim is to tackle some of the key problems facing Africa; poverty, conflict and corruption, through the filter of the Bible.

From the weather, you'd have thought that there was nothing wrong in the world. But, according to a Transparency International report last year, some 75 million Africans have had to pay a bribe to get through daily life. And, 58% of Africans say that corruption is getting worse.



Photography by Clare Kendall

A leading judge from Uganda, Lady Justice Catherine Bamugemereire (pictured below left), told the conference that Africans expected their leaders to be corrupt, whether they were clerics or politicians.

'We expect leaders to misuse resources for their private gain and to abuse those below them,' she said. 'Misuse of public office is so commonplace. We expect them to sponge off resources of an organisation: it doesn't matter whether it is the Church or government.'

But, she said that true leadership had to be based on biblical values, not on self-aggrandizement or personal gain. 'Biblical leadership should see us helping people develop,' said Lady Justice Catherine. 'A true leader makes sacrifices, sets an example, shares a vision and influences and gives direction to others.'

The forum was opened by the Deputy President of Kenya, William Ruto. 'The destiny of communities, societies and nations is tied to the destiny of its leaders,' he said.

Lord Paul Boateng said that ABLI had a track record of strengthening individuals to fight corruption. 'It makes them stronger in their resolve,' he said, 'and over time it creates a different culture. ABLI is making an impact in this way.'

And speaking at the event, our CEO, Paul Williams, added, 'ABLI raises the awareness among the Christian community in Africa of the public dimension of faith. The Bible is meant to transform not only our personal lives, but also our public life together.' This, he said, was not incidental or optional to the challenges facing African or Western nations. 'We tend to think government can fix everything. But we need transformed leaders in government and all spheres of civil society if our communities are to truly flourish.'



**Hazel Southam**  
Chief reporter

# Join our festivals team



Photography by Ralph Hodgson

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

There are two roles on offer:

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

Volunteer with us for around six hours a day, split over two or three shifts. In return, you'll receive a free festival ticket and three meals a day. There's also the opportunity to attend festival worship and seminar sessions outside of your shifts.

Susan Wingrave, responsible for volunteers at Bible Society, said, 'It's an absolute joy and delight to work at these festivals, and it's a lot of fun. You get stuck in doing something you wouldn't normally do, and you meet a great group of people.'

When you're not on duty you can go to the worship events and teaching taking place around the festival!

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

We'll also have stands at festivals like Spring Harvest, New Word Alive, Bible Church Day Out (North and South), Keswick Convention, The One Event and various leaders conferences. If you, or someone you know, may be interested in becoming a volunteer, speak to us today. Give Susan a call on 01793 418222 or email [volunteers@biblesociety.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@biblesociety.org.uk)

### You give:

- Six hours a day, split into shifts

### You get:

- A free festival ticket
- Three meals a day
- An opportunity to serve with a great team

Chris Freed (pictured far left) volunteered in our New Wine café after visiting and deciding she'd like to join the team.

'I loved it and got an opportunity to do a range of jobs. God is very good and uses us in ways we don't ever imagine,' she said.



Photography by Ralph Hodgson

Philip North, (above right) Chair of Chichester Action Group, helped serve tea and coffee at New Wine 2016, and said,

'It gave a positive sense of wellbeing and release to be able to share in a common good deed of service.'



Photography by Tom Robson

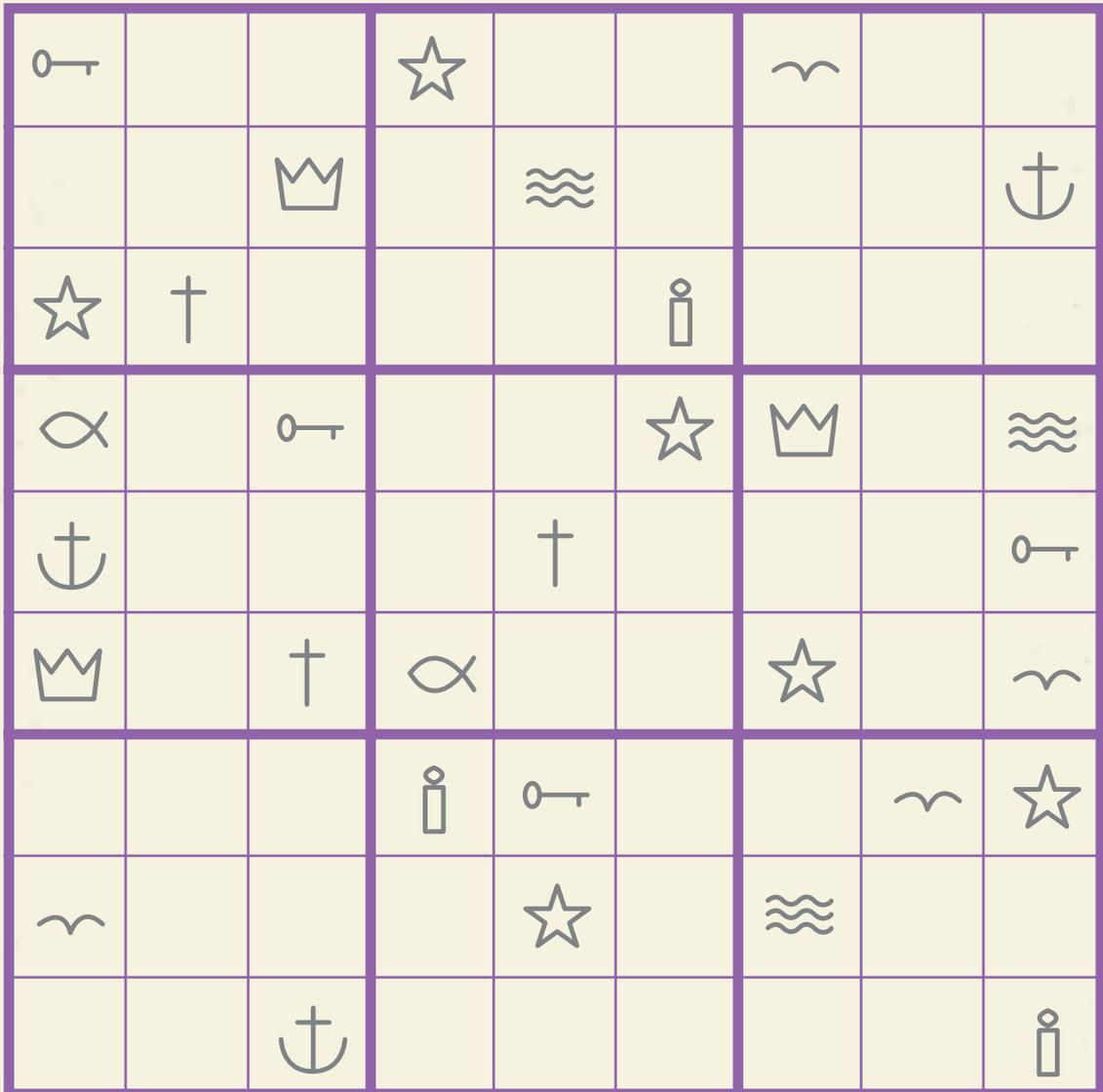
Nineteen-year-old Clare Gollop was a café volunteer last year. She said,

'I would definitely recommend it; the team is great, the atmosphere in the café is amazing, and the customers are very patient when things go wrong!'

# TEST yourself

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_



**Can you solve this picture Sudoku using images found in the Bible?**

Use the same method as a regular number Sudoku: complete the Sudoku puzzle so that each row, column and grid contains each picture only once.

**key**



cross



fish



anchor



key



dove



light



star



water



crown

# YOUR LETTERS & COMMENTS

I thought *Word in Action* was very inspiring this time as it always is. It helped me to see and understand more about what the Christians and others in the Middle East are facing and the kind of help that they need. I am glad that the Bible is having such an impact especially in Syria and I have been praying hard for the Christians in that country who are spreading God's love to others while they are facing danger themselves.

ANNIE, WALSINGHAM



We hope you had a great Christmas and enjoyed using all of our resources. We had several comments back from those of you who aren't able to order resources

through the internet, that you would like an alternative ordering method. We apologise and will make sure in the future that we always provide a telephone number or address for orders.

LARISSA, WORD IN ACTION EDITOR

I have the privilege of going into school every week with other members of our church to 'Open the Book'. It's a joy to see the faces of the children. They just love it.

MR JOHNSON, PRESTON

We really appreciate *Prayer in Action*, and information about the wonderful work you all do to bring the Bible to life. At the age of 90 and 81, between us, prayer is our action! Thank you for all you do, may God bless your work for him.

JACK AND MARGARET, NOTTINGHAM

I just wanted to say how nice it was that volunteers were prayed for in the latest *Prayer in Action*. I know we are valued but it was good to see it in print.

MARY, VOLUNTEER

We are delighted that the **one millionth copy of *The Servant Queen* has been delivered to The Queen.** Over

1,000 copies continue to be sold every week. Here is a picture of the team outside Buckingham Palace, left-to-right: Paul Williams (Bible Society), Catherine Butcher (HOPE), Mark Greene (LICC), Claire Simmonds-Clark (Bible Society), Roy Crowne (HOPE) and Paul Woolley (Bible Society).



## WE LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Email us your thoughts and comments at [wia@biblesociety.org.uk](mailto:wia@biblesociety.org.uk) or use the comments form.

We reserve the right to edit letters for style and length.

The views expressed do not necessarily represent those of Bible Society.



**'The Lord is near to those who are discouraged; he saves those who have lost all hope.' Psalm 34.18 (GNB)**

For people who experience trauma, life changes in an instant. The world can feel like a lonely, overwhelming place and the future stretches out in uncertain darkness. People can become trapped in a cycle of hopelessness and fear, yet this doesn't have to be the way forever – the cycle can be broken.

The Bible is a unique and powerful instrument in trauma healing. It brings a message of God's faithfulness and steadfast love

through times of suffering. It helps people see how their story fits into a bigger story – one of purpose and restoration. And perhaps most importantly, it reminds us that far from being distant, God is right there with us in our darkest moments. He never leaves us and he brings hope that can't be lost.

**Naomi Dunn works at Bible Society as our International Holistic and Engagement Officer**

## Biblepeople:

Having spent 24 years working for the Trustee Department of a large British bank I felt a strong desire to use my time, experience and legal qualifications to work for a charity improving people's lives. So in 2011 I joined Bible Society and I've thoroughly enjoyed my time here. My colleagues are great, our supporters are loyal and our cause is God given... what more could I ask for? I am hugely privileged to have a job where I see firsthand the wonderful generosity of our

supporters and when I went to Cambodia I saw a glimpse of the hope, healing and love that people experience through the word of God.

The saying that 'you need to leave the woodpile just a little higher than you found it' is important to me as I encourage our supporters to prayerfully consider a gift to Bible Society in their will.

**Howard Barker works at Bible Society as our Head of Legacy Giving**



## See the Bible brought to life!

The Passion of Jesus, performed by the Wintershall Players, will see an expected 15,000 people watch the powerful re-telling of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus in London's Trafalgar Square on Good Friday, 14 April. This free event is made possible in part thanks to the generosity of Bible Society supporters. If you've never been, why not come along this year?

If you're keen to get a broader view of the ministry, miracles and mystery of Jesus, make sure you come along to The Life of Christ, between 20 – 24 June, near Guildford. This ticketed event takes place over a whole day, with the cast and audience moving from location to location. It's an experience not to be missed!

**Find out more at [wintershall-estate.com](http://wintershall-estate.com) or book tickets on 01793 418299**

# Bring the story of Jesus to life for children

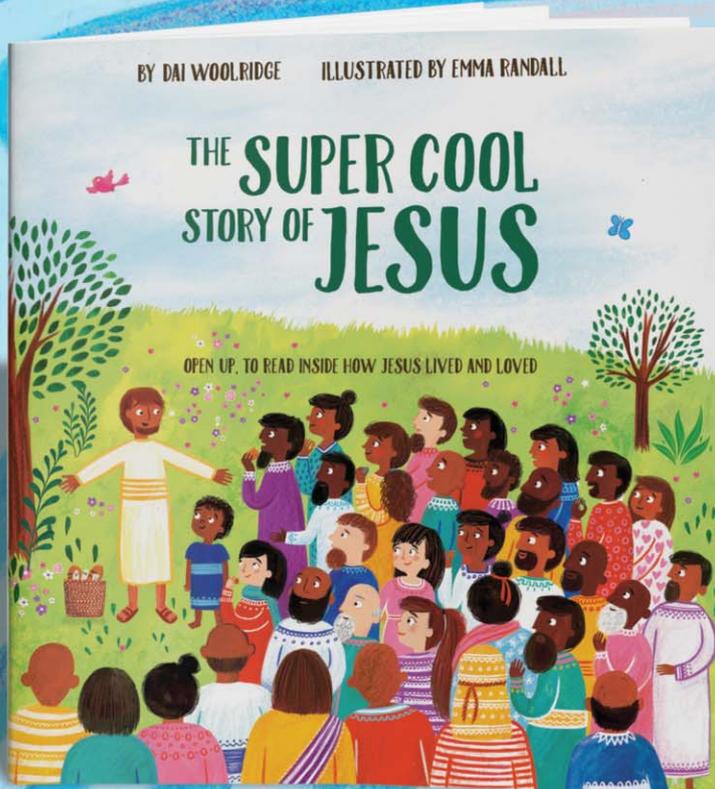
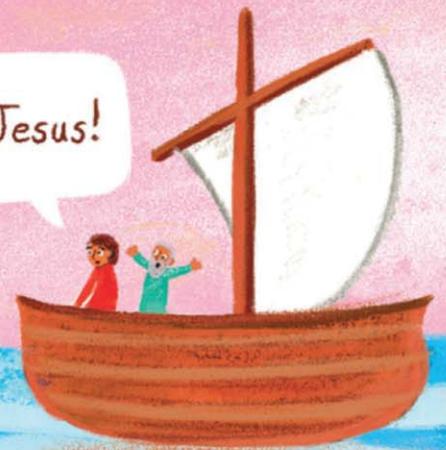
Order the booklet by calling  
01793 418300

For accompanying free Easter resources or to order online visit  
**[biblesociety.org.uk/easter](http://biblesociety.org.uk/easter)**

See page 3 inside for more details



It's Jesus!



*He wasn't in a boat!  
And he wasn't wearing skis  
He was walking on the water;  
(and doing it with ease!)*