

'What legacy
will I pass on?'



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Photography by Layton Thompson

Chat with our Chief Exec

What legacy will we pass on? That's a challenging question for all of us as we think about our legacy to our families, our churches and our society. I hope you're inspired by the verses that you, our supporters, want to pass on featured on pages 8, 9 and 15 and in Prayer in Action. The formation of Bible Society was inspired by the legacies of incredible people like Mary Jones, Thomas Charles and William Wilberforce who lived out the transformational message of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Our prayer is to continue their legacy into a new generation of the church, seeing lives changed through the Bible.

Every blessing
Larissa
Word in Action editor



Q: In this issue of *Word in Action* we're thinking about our legacy. Whose legacy has inspired you?

Lesslie Newbigin's legacy inspires me the most. I met him through a family friend when I was in my 20s and I was struggling to figure out questions of vocation and direction in the world and what it meant to follow Jesus as an economist working in a consulting firm. My wife and I were really involved in church life which felt missional, but with work it was difficult to see how to connect it to discipleship and faith.

I met Lesslie Newbigin in Brixton. He was a very unassuming man, incredibly humble and he was to have a profound impact on my life. What was inspirational to me about him was the integration between his life, his teaching and his person. He was a missionary in India, but rather than retire when he returned home, he had another season of fruitfulness by taking his life experience and making it fruitful and available with his theological reflection, his deep biblical engagement and his love for the whole church, in a way that has transformed missionary thinking in his generation.

At the core of his teaching is a conviction about the way in which the incarnation, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is a complete turning point, a pivot, around which everything has to be reconfigured. It cannot be treated as a private religious preference, a

belief in which you can choose if you want. He was saying if the account of Jesus' life, death and resurrection is true, it's a truth that has to change absolutely everything about the way we understand the world and the way we live.

For me that was so relevant to my struggle with the relationship between faith and work, and church and the world – feeling tensions between these things. He was insisting that following Jesus had to affect everything in life. If Jesus is the starting point for how I think about my job and he's the starting point for how I think about church, then those things must integrate and have coherence. It was revelatory as it opened up an expansive world in which the Gospel and Jesus Christ were the centre of everything and that encounter with Lesslie changed the course of my life.

My desire is that we as Bible Society are able to transmit, equip and inspire the British church with the same kind of confidence that Newbigin has in his writing, confidence to change the conversation that we have about the Bible and faith. Confidence that changes the conversation amongst non-Christians about what Christianity and the Bible are, and that makes a difference missionally in all kinds of ways through the local church. I hope in 10 years' time we, in partnership with others can say, yes, we've helped to bring confidence in the Bible.



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Meet our **new President**

His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos is the first hierarch of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of London.

Archbishop Angaelos began his ministry in the UK in 1995 as a parish priest and became General Bishop of the Coptic Church in the UK in 1999. He's well known for his work in ecumenism and inter-religious relations and is internationally recognised for his role as an advocate for religious freedom and universal human rights. He works extensively with many different communities to build bridges, promote dialogue, and foster unity between churches, faiths and communities.

He says, 'I consider it an incredible honour to serve as President of Bible Society, an institution that has historically served to share the message of hope through the word of God. As I embark on this new journey with colleagues from, and supporters of, Bible Society,

I also recognise the immense contribution of my dear brother and friend, His Grace Bishop Richard Chartres.

'This is a time in which Britain, and our world, needs the hope that can only come from the inspired message of God in the Scriptures, and it is up to us to be a faithful conduit of this life-giving message. I am sincerely committed to the ecumenical life of the Church because I believe in it, and there is nothing that can unite us more than Scripture as we endeavour to be the Body of Christ, and light in the world.'

Archbishop Angaelos replaces Dr Richard Chartres, former Bishop of London, who is retiring after 6 years as our President. Bishop Richard has been an enthusiastic and generous supporter of our mission, both in the UK and globally, not least in China where he has travelled with us.

Our Chief Executive, Paul Williams, said, 'We are profoundly grateful to Richard Chartres for his outstanding service over the past six years. Archbishop Angaelos, and the Coptic Orthodox Church which he represents in the UK, models a deep, prayerful spirituality that is characterised by its attentiveness to Scripture. The love for the Bible that is demonstrated day by day, in all of life, and in the midst of considerable hardship and suffering by Coptic Christians, is a challenge and inspiration for us all.'

To hear Archbishop Angaelos speaking about the Bible, the history of the Coptic Church and his new role go to biblesociety.org.uk/newpresident



Rachel Rounds
Head of Media and Communications



Central African Republic

– hope in the midst of chaos

War in the Central African Republic has curtailed Bible mission.
But – as Ken Dachi, our Programme Adviser for Africa, discovered – there's hope in the midst of chaos. Find out what happened during Ken's remarkable visit.

Central African Republic (CAR), right in the middle of Africa, is a dangerous place. The war between Seleka and Anti-Balaka rebel groups has been running since 2012, but much of the conflict is political manoeuvring to gain control of highly lucrative diamond, gold and oil mines. The capital, Bangui, is controlled by the UN – but beyond this, the country is lawless. Violence, looting and kidnappings are widespread. Approximately 90% of people live in extreme poverty.

The Foreign Office advises not to travel to CAR at all. But our staff are working there, so I was compelled to go and see for myself.

This is a difficult country to be in. The airport has no electricity so everything is done manually. The moment you exit the airport, it's total chaos... a marketplace of displaced people who sought refuge in the airport some years ago, and stayed, living and trading on the site ever since.

I went to meet our ten colleagues, based at two sites. The first 'office', on the edge of Bangui, is a former internet café. Eight staff share three desks in a boiling hot room. We tried to hold a board meeting, but the rain hammering on the tin roof was so loud we couldn't hear each other's voices. We had to wait two

hours for the storm to pass, then start the meeting again.

I met the other colleagues in a small office at the Bangui Evangelical School of Theology. They have barely any basic tools like computers and printers. In fact, electricity is only available for three hours a day. Outside that, everyone relies on generators. You hear the noise of generators all over the city.

Afterwards, I was taken to the Bible 'warehouse' – an old freight container. In 2015 this container was looted by rebels, and Scripture material was set ablaze. I only saw the leftovers.



The whole set-up was chaotic and ramshackle and in this tense environment you have no idea if you will even make it to work the next day. When you fear for your life, you don't tidy your office or get organised. There's no order or records or proper resources. The war affects everything.

But, here is the important thing to know: Bible mission doesn't depend on money, or resources, or office space. God's work is happening, right now, in this volatile nation.

I managed to get out of the city to meet a group of women involved in Bible-based literacy and trauma healing. These women (photos, left

and below) have overcome all obstacles – war, insecurity, tension – to start a group teaching people to read and write using the Bible as the main text. They came, by bike and on foot, to engage with God's word.

Their energy and passion to understand the Bible moved me beyond words. I realised that when people decide they want to read God's word, they will find a way. These women live in such a hostile environment, but actively choose to press on. To study the Bible is everything. Scripture is their bedrock. It was the perfect picture of hope.

On the way back, my colleagues pointed out a small kiosk (above left) from which our staff sell Bibles. I couldn't believe it. In a country which is totally broken, people still use their scarce resources to buy Bibles. Tell me if that's not hope alive.

So these are the projects I'd like us to support over the next few years. This is where your donations in CAR will be directed, and where your prayers are vital.

We plan to train up 20 women as literacy class leaders and trauma healing counsellors, to run Bible-based sessions in their communities. We'd like to install three new kiosks for Bible sales around Bangui, and build a new distribution centre. I also hope we can buy three motorbikes to deliver Bibles around the region.

For our colleagues, I want to provide proper support – computers, a printer, internet access and a refurbished office space. These people have not had their salary reviewed for 11 years, but have still worked faithfully to share God's word as best they can.

I have never been in a war-torn country before. This is one of the toughest, hardest places in Africa. But our staff and the women I met are the picture of resilience and hope – and I believe the Bible can change the lives of people here, for good.



Ken Dachi
Programme Adviser
for Africa



Putting the FUN in

We've been inspired by you, our supporters, as you've come up with some inspiring, creative ways to raise money for people to have the gift of the Bible around the world. Thank you! Here are some of our favourites...



CofE minister Corinne Brixton

has dedicated the proceeds from her first novel, *Through Martha's Eyes*, to our work. The book tells the imagined back-story of Martha and her encounter with Jesus, and is packed with historical and cultural details which bring the Bible to life. Corinne, now a full-time carer for her mother, said, 'I started on the book about four years ago. It came out of a desire to help people understand the Bible better – people who might never pick up a commentary.' The book costs £8.99 and is available online. Corinne added, 'I didn't write *Through Martha's Eyes* for income, and it's given me an extra joy to be able to give to Bible Society through it.' You can buy a copy (and support our work at the same time) from troubador.co.uk/shop and search for *Through Martha's Eyes*.



A Jersey farmer raised more than £1,000 after selling his strawberries. **Gary Barette**, who's been growing strawberries for a number of years and sells through markets and wholesalers, had an exceptionally good harvest in 2017. The last of his punnets were snapped up for £1 each at the local car boot sale. Gary said, 'The sun was shining, and the strawberries were half the normal price – so they sold very quickly! I was blessed with a good crop, we sold everything, and raised some money to do good.'



Bible Society Church Partnership Associate in Jersey, **Cathy Morling**, staged a 12-hour Spoken Word Marathon in her local church – and read all the way from Luke to Hebrews. Standing on a small stage in the corner of St Helier Methodist Church Centre, Cathy paused every 30 minutes to show one of our videos. She raised more than £250 to provide Bibles, and said afterwards, 'It was powerful reading from Scripture all day – an incredibly moving journey. My voice was fine, legs tired, heart deeply warmed and soul fit to burst.'

fundraising



The incredible Hand Knitted Bible – 33 scenes from the Bible beautifully presented in wool – spent eight days on show at Bellingham Methodist/URC Church and raised more than £1,000.

Hundreds of people travelled from miles around to see the display, and dropped their donations in a jar. The exhibition tours churches all over the country, and is fully booked throughout 2018. To invite the Hand Knitted Bible to your church, contact us on 01793 418222.



Roy Moody celebrated his 80th birthday in style, by walking all 28 miles of the Mary Jones Challenge with his wife, Rosemary. The intrepid couple raised £2,700 – enough to buy more than 500 Bibles for Middle East refugees.



Judith and Andrew recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary – and decided to donate £25 to 25 different charities that have played a part in their life together. We were one organisation to benefit from the couple's generosity, as well as other medical, family and international development charities.

Our sincerest thanks go to all our fundraisers, volunteers and donors. We are inspired to hear your stories of supporting our work, and we love to know what motivates you. Every Bible you help to place into someone's hands can change their life, for good. Thank you!

Pass it on: Bible verses that speak to you

Recently, we asked supporters what Bible verses have spoken to them and how. Your response was incredible.

We've had hundreds and hundreds of letters. We thought there might be 20 favourite verses, but it seems all of the Bible speaks to us. You've written in with stories that made me smile, and others that made me cry. God's word can inspire, comfort and challenge us.

I'd love to hear your story, if you haven't already responded. Please visit biblesociety.org.uk/passonmyverse to tell us the verse that matters to you and why. And please also consider whether you could pass on the Bible to future generations by leaving a gift in your will to Bible Society. We're all part of God's unfolding story, with a responsibility to pass it on. You can release God's word to change more lives, for good, right around the world.

If you want to know more about legacy giving, please complete the form inserted in these pages, send it back and I'll post a booklet to you. In the meantime, here's a selection of the stories that touched me most.

Howard Barker
Head of Legacy Giving

*The Spirit himself intercedes for us
with groanings too deep for words.*

Romans 8.26

'After my wife was diagnosed with cancer, she decided not to have treatment. We all tried to persuade her to change her mind but she was adamant. I went to church and my mind was in turmoil. I was completely unable to pray. But as I took communion I felt more peaceful, and felt someone was holding my arms to my sides. After I walked home I told Ellen I would respect her wishes. She would not change her mind, and although I was unable to pray, I felt God understood my needs and I would be provided with the strength needed. Ellen lived for two more months and died peacefully.'

Gordon, Stoke-on-Trent

*I can do all things through
him who strengthens me.*

Philippians 4.13

'When my husband was dying I locked myself in the hospital toilet and told the Lord I couldn't watch him die. This verse came to mind. Whenever things get tough, I'm vividly reminded of the way the Lord spoke to me that day.'

Mrs Hughes, Nottingham

*Practice these things,
immerse yourself in
them, so that all may
see your progress.*

1 Timothy 4.15

'In my final year as an undergraduate I was considering going to Bible college. This verse gave me the conviction it was the right step. I became a Bible Society translation consultant, and over the years, I worked with more than 50 translation projects in different languages.'

Dr David, Camberley

*But a Samaritan...
when he saw him, he
had compassion.*

Luke 10.33

'I was visiting my mother in hospital and in the corridor met a lady who was distressed. She and her husband had come to the city on a coach trip and he had become ill. He was admitted to hospital but she had nowhere to stay. Prompted by the Holy Spirit and the story of the Good Samaritan, I invited the lady to stay at my house.'

Elizabeth, Bath

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalms 119:105

BE STILL AND
KNOW THAT
I AM GOD.

PSALM 46:10

'I had a difficult childhood. My father was a victim of war and was admitted to hospital when I was a baby, never to be released. It affected me deeply. I suffered several mental breakdowns and received electroconvulsive therapy treatment. One day, I was weeping in the bathroom when the Lord God spoke to me – this verse. I was, literally, spellbound. I listened to his voice and he led me, through the words of the Bible, out of the darkness, into his glorious light. I went on, over many years, to become a very active member of my church. Thanks be to God!'

Betty, Walsall

This is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1 John 4:10

'I married my childhood sweetheart and we had two children. When our son was 25 he was killed in a car accident. Life was tough but thankfully my faith remained strong and we have weathered the storms, knowing that God loves us and cares deeply about each of us.'

Dr Jennifer, France

'I had always wanted to work in a bank, but when I was 17 I read these verses and they just jumped out of the page to me. At that moment there was born a desire in me to share my love of the Scriptures through teaching, and I subsequently spent my working years teaching RE in secondary schools. God gives just enough illumination for the next step; there is no need for a searchlight to show the whole road.'

Miss West, Deal

They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

'I was living in Australia and my elderly mother was visiting. During that time, my partner had a major heart attack. Mother and I were exhausted from hospital visiting, day-to-day activities and then nursing our patient at home. No other family were there to help. We were tremendously encouraged by this Scripture; the Word of God kept us strong and patient.'

Gwen, Wareham

The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms.

Deuteronomy 33:27

'Thirty years ago my younger daughter was terribly injured in a road accident. She was taken by ambulance to hospital and was not expected to live. I found this verse helpful; I liked the feeling that I was lifted and supported. After weeks in intensive care, our daughter gradually recovered. Now, she lives a very active life doing lots of voluntary Christian work.'

Marjorie, Loughton

He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

2 Corinthians 5:15

'This verse changed my direction in life. At 17 I had dreams of becoming a journalist. Then the meaning of this verse was brought home to me; being a Christian means more than having a successful life with some help from God. It means living for him, come what may. I knelt to tell the Lord I would obey him. After some years, I had the privilege of living with the Bassari people of West Africa to help make God's word available to them, finally retiring after 40 years.'

Monica, Calne

Faith in the face of danger

Bible Society of Jordan are doing some incredible work in difficult circumstances. They work with refugee families who have harrowing stories to tell and I had the privilege of meeting Saad and Fida's family during a recent visit to Jordan.

'I have photos,' says Saad, getting out his mobile phone. Unlike pictures that you or I might be showing to our friends, these are not of family outings, pets or even food. Saad and his two young daughters are pictured (below) on a boat in the Mediterranean. The sky is blue. It's a beautiful day.

But it isn't. Saad and his children were being trafficked from Turkey to Greece having fled their home in Iraq. 'ISIS came to our city and we were forced to leave,' he says. 'If we stayed, there would be so much trouble and we would be forced to convert to Islam.' So his wife, Fida, stayed in Iraq, working as a teacher, sending part of her income to him in order to fund the trafficking. What happened next is shocking.

'It was a very small boat,' says Saad, 'about 10m long and there were

already 70 people on there when we got on. After two hours, something went wrong with the motor and it stopped. The water started coming inside the boat. We were wearing life jackets but we didn't have hope. We thought we would die here.' Thinking he was about to drown, he called Fida to say goodbye. 'I told him, "God will be with you. God will save you"', says Fida. 'I started praying for them and asking God to save and help them. Then I put their pictures on Facebook and people started praying for them. I lost the connection with them. I was only praying to God.'

Saad and the girls were rescued by the Turkish police and returned to war-torn Iraq. The family now live as refugees in neighbouring Jordan.

Here, the Bible Society of Jordan has helped tens of thousands of traumatised refugees with Bible-based trauma counselling, as well as practical support through the provision of food, bedding, nappies, stoves and, where appropriate, Bibles.

Fida and Saad were welcomed by Bible Society volunteers in Jordan. But instead of asking for the family to undergo trauma counselling, Fida – who is trained in psychology – volunteered to help other refugees. Today she is part of a team in the country who help refugees to talk about their experiences and start to process them, in the light of the Bible.

'The word of God works better than any other kind of healing,' she says. 'It is powerful. The Bible's words give strength.'

Today, the children are going to school. Fida says they are 'doing better.' They don't have nightmares anymore,' she adds. The family are in limbo, waiting to know which country will be their final home.

Yet Fida radiates hope. 'I am who I am now because of the things that happened to me and I'm like the clay that Jesus is moulding the way he wants. God answered my prayers, especially when my husband and daughters were in the middle of the ocean. He has fulfilled all our needs.'





Saad and Fida's family

Photography by Claire Kendall

If you follow us on Facebook, you'll have seen that each week, someone talks about the impact that the Bible has had on their lives. We asked Fida (below), what it meant to her.

'My favourite verse in the Bible is Matthew 10.32 – 33, "If anyone declares publicly that he belongs to me, I will do the same for him before my Father in heaven. But if anyone rejects me publicly, I will reject him before my Father in heaven." It is this, because I've lived it, twice.



Fida

Photography by Claire Kendall

'In 2007, my first husband was kidnapped by Al Qaeda and they forced him to deny his faith. They gave him two choices: convert or be killed. Because he was scared, he denied his faith, but inside he still believed in Jesus Christ. Then a week later, we found out that he had cancer. A week after that he passed away. Before he died, he said, "Do you think that God will forgive me because I denied him?" I told him, "Peter also denied Jesus even though he saw him in person." Before he died he told me that he

loves God and wants God to forgive him. I was touched by that verse. I lived that verse.

'Then, more recently, when we were in Turkey with Saad and our children, we were on a bus and a sheikh came onto the bus and

locked the door. He told us that we had to convert to Islam. Some Muslims tried to open the door, but he wouldn't let them. We were the only Christians on the bus. We were holding each others' hands and praying. My husband was scared because our daughters were young. I told him, "Don't worry, God will take care of us."

'The sheikh had a paper for us to read and convert to Islam. We told him we were Christians and he was shocked but didn't do anything.

'He passed us by and didn't say anything. We thank God because he said he would always be with us.'



Hazel Southam
Chief reporter



Welcome to Jordan

Sue Fairbairn is one of our supporters, who went on a trip with us to Jordan, here's her story:

I've just returned from a five-day trip to Jordan. It was one of the most moving experiences I have had. Bible Society in Jordan and the local churches – supported by Bible Society at home in this country – are serving refugees. And here we are in Britain, barely letting refugees in.

Watching the news about the crisis in the Middle East over the past few years left me feeling really powerless. But I knew that I could support people who were doing something.

Five days isn't very long, but our visit was so well-organised. One of the highlights for me was meeting a Muslim-background family who had fled Aleppo. They had received mattresses and other things from the local church, which had come from the Bible Society of Jordan.

As soon as we entered the house a four-year-old girl made straight for me. She came into my arms,

head buried in my shoulder, so I just hugged her. I'm a stranger. I'm a foreigner. But she came to me. It was so beautiful. I was so touched by that beautiful little child. But she was obviously traumatised. And her two-year-old sister has a heart condition.

The most moving moment of that visit was praying with the family. We asked them if they would like us to pray for them and they said 'yes'. We knelt on the floor with the family, held hands and prayed for them.

What struck me, everywhere I went was the desperation of the people. We met people who had fled, leaving everything behind. I can't imagine that.

I particularly remember one single woman that we met. Her brother used to work in the law courts in Baghdad. They'd lived happily with their Muslim neighbours, but the time came when they just ran.

At one point they were sleeping on the stairs of a building. Can you imagine that? Now they're in Jordan, the church has provided them with beds and chairs and other things. What's the future for her? She's done the trauma healing course and she found it very, very helpful. But I wonder where you go from there.

I have been involved in children's and youth work in the past, so helping children is particularly important to me. The teams on the ground in Jordan are providing trauma healing both for adults and for children, and they are very fragile.

I was inspired to go on the visit, with other supporters, from reading about work in Jordan in previous issues of *Word in Action*.

What will stay with me is the welcome that we received, the warmth of the people and the thankfulness that we had visited. People talk about how simply awful it is for refugees and it is. But the fact that the Christian Church is reaching out and working with refugees is very impressive.

Sue Fairbairn



Sue reading articles about Jordan in *WIA*

All photography by Clare Kendall



Celebrating the Bible in the opening ceremony of ABLI 2017

Photography by Andrew Boyd

Call for **Christian leadership** across Africa

Christian leaders from across Africa have been hearing a call for 'zero tolerance' over corruption and have been urged to embrace biblical standards of servant leadership.

Christians leaders gathered in the Cameroon capital, Yaoundé, to consider how to tackle endemic corruption throughout Africa. They came together for the 2017 African Biblical Leadership Initiative (ABLI Forum) in September, which we organise. ABLI heard that some 30% of Africa's financial wealth is now held in offshore accounts. The cost to the continent is up to £10 billion a year in lost tax revenue, according to Oxfam.

'Corruption is the most neglected human rights violation,' said one of the conference organisers, Girma Mohammed, International Advocacy Officer for Bible Society. He added: 'Corruption leaves lasting trauma in society, individuals and the family.'

ABLI is working to end corruption in Africa by mobilising and equipping Christian leaders to lead honest and exemplary lives. The annual forum, now in its seventh year, helps

Christians regard their leadership role as a ministry to both God and society.

Former Nigerian cabinet minister, Jerry Gana gave one of the keynote addresses: 'In most African countries, what we see is a poverty of good leadership. The sad reality is there is too much corruption, taking over the public good for private use.'

Speaker after speaker called on Africa's leaders to follow the biblical model of servant leadership.

A keynote speaker, Dr Delanyo Adadevoh, of the US-based International Leadership Foundation said, 'By 2050, 40% of the world's Christians will be African. That is the new shape of Christianity. What a tragedy if at that time, Christianity in Africa is diluted. We need to ensure that African Christianity is biblical, Christ-centred and kingdom-driven.'



Andrew Boyd
Freelance writer

Shanghai, China – The Bible in China seminar opened in Shanghai from 15 – 17 November to about 100 participants from the religious, academic and political circles with the theme 'The Bible and Sinicization of Christianity' (sinicize means to make Chinese in character or form).



Photography by China Partnership

Now into its seventh year, the annual event is jointly organised by the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences and Centre for the Studies of Religion and Culture with the support of United Bible Societies to demonstrate the contributions of the Bible to Chinese society.

As Gu Mengfei, the director of the research department of the Three Self Patriotic Movement/China Christian Council, observed, the best contribution that the religious sinicization process can make to Christianity in China is to challenge the Church to develop a relevant Chinese theology which will reflect theologically on the local social, cultural and historical characteristics so that 'Christianity in China' will become a true 'Chinese Christianity'.

YOUR LETTERS & COMMENTS

It was very humbling to read Beans for a Bible. Every story in *Word in Action* has emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually moved me. To read and believe that no matter what the situation may be God works in mysterious ways. Thank you *Word in Action*, this has boosted my faith in God. May God bless you all, with love.

MARIA, STOKE-ON-TRENT

I find *Word in Action* very interesting. I have just been to Mary Jones World, which is very well worth a visit and most interesting. I am a member of an Open the Book team that goes weekly to our local primary school. I like the way Bible Society is promoting this vital tool for children to hear the gospel.

WILLIAM, CHIPPENHAM

Thank you for *Journey to Bethlehem* and for the Winter *Word in Action*, which has such exciting news! I grew up in South Wales hearing of the Welsh revival and pray your Mission to Wales will ensure the second one!!

M, WINDERMERE

It was tremendous to read of so many reached through Mission to Wales and moving to learn of people in Swaziland exchanging their hard-earned produce for a Bible of their own. I was very moved by Yasmine and Miriam's stories of losing everything but finding Christ and his love, peace and comfort through his word.

ANNE, WARRINGTON

I found it very interesting and heart-wrenching especially the school for the deaf and the beautiful little boy on the front. You do a wonderful job getting the Bible to so many parts of the world. Thank you.

ANN, BEDFORD



Investors in People award winners

We're delighted to say that we won the 2017 Investors in People 'Excellence in the Third Sector' award. The award recognises the people and teams that make the difference in their workplace and celebrates the best people management practices amongst Investors in People accredited businesses. Investors in People is an internationally recognised accreditation, held by 14,000 organisations across the world. Responding to the news Paul Williams said; 'This reflects wonderfully on our people managers, the HR/IIP team who focus on people investment all year, and on all those involved in our submission to this award.'

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.

*He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God,
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be
exalted in the earth.'*

Psalm 46:10

We've had hundreds of responses to our Pass it on campaign (see pages 8 and 9) and have been overjoyed and moved by how the Bible speaks to you, our wonderful

supporters! We have featured some of those responses in *Word in Action* and *Prayer in Action* and share this verse from Mrs Duncan.

'This is a special verse. Through years of illness looking after my husband and eventually his passing God was so close and helped me to keep strong and able to cope.

Now on my own He is my constant companion and helps me through each day... I praise God for every day he gives me. One is never too old to serve the Lord'

Biblepeople:

Rola Al Kattar, 43, is an interior designer who has also designed TV sets. She volunteers as a trauma healing facilitator for Bible Society in Lebanon.

'I didn't find this work [as a trauma healing facilitator], it found me. I was busy working and so it seemed like a conflict at first. But when I saw how the Lord was using me to speak about love and that I could pray for people, of course, I loved it.

When I heard about Bible Society's trauma healing programme I liked it because it was 50% from the Bible

and 50% psychological health awareness. Combining these two together is important to me. I know that only God can bring deep healing for them.

The trauma healing groups make such a difference to the women that come because they have never had the chance to speak, or the time to express, what they went through. Although they attend church, where people pray for them, they haven't had the chance to express what they really felt when they left their countries, and lost many friends and family members, not just their



homes. The Bible puts a base for their lives. When people are traumatised if they don't have a real faith, they will be shaken. The trauma healing has helped rebuild people's faith'

Love the Stranger



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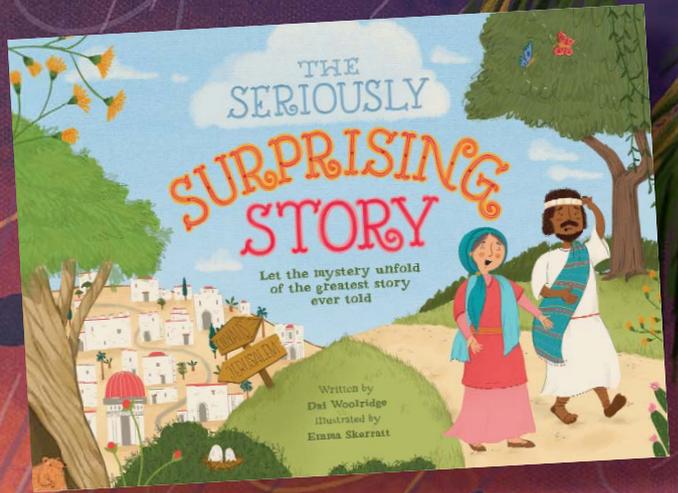
minority groups in the UK. The six-session study guide looks at passages from both Old and New Testaments to explore a variety of ways in which the Bible addresses the subject of migration.

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