

News from Bible Society

TRANSMISSION IS PROVIDED FREE BY BIBLE SOCIETY AS PART OF OUR MISSION TO EQUIP THE CHURCH TO LIVE OUT THE BIBLE'S MESSAGE. WE ALSO WORK CREATIVELY AND WITH PASSION TO SHOW THAT THE BIBLE RESONATES WITH ISSUES TODAY – AND TO MAKE SCRIPTURES AVAILABLE WHERE THERE ARE NONE.

Out of Africa

The African Union Summit meets each year in Addis Ababa – and Bible Society is there too. We help sponsor the African Union Prayer Summit along with local Christians. This is a main event in Africa and is modelled on the many prayer breakfasts that are growing up around the world. The Rt Hon Paul Boateng, Britain's former ambassador to South Africa, hosts this year's event.

This initiative comes out of Bible Society's deeply held view that the Bible is for the public square. It deserves to be on the top table of world affairs. Our efforts are not to control or dictate world events, but to enter into a conversation about what kind of society we want to see and how we can get there. Several Heads of State attended the last AU Prayer Summit which attracted considerable media interest. The 2010 event one includes a weekend of seminars and discussion groups alongside a new biblical leadership initiative.

New from Theos

God and Government is the latest Theos publication. The book, published by SPCK, was launched on 22 October 2009 and retails at £9.99. It comprises a series of essays exploring the proper function of government. The book does not tell readers what to do, still less for whom to vote. It seeks, rather, to equip people to consider what they should be attempting to achieve in their roles as 'political Christians', that is, Christians employed, engaged or simply interested in politics. The writers, all highly respected theological thinkers, are *Philip Booth*, Professor of Insurance and Risk Management at Cass Business School; *Andrew Bradstock*, Professor of Theology and Public Life at the University of Otago; *Jonathan Chaplin*, Director of the Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics; *David McIlroy*, Visiting Lecturer in Law at SOAS; *Clifford Longley*, author, broadcaster and journalist; *Julian Rivers*, Professor of Jurisprudence at the University of Bristol; *Nick Spencer*, Director of Studies at Theos; *Nicholas Townsend*, Lecturer in Christian Ethics at the South East Institute for Theological Education; *Nigel G Wright*, Principal of Spurgeon's College, London; and *Tom Wright*, Bishop of Durham.

In his foreword, the *Archbishop of Canterbury* writes, '*God and Government* offers invaluable resources for what is now a sharply urgent task – thinking through the ethical and spiritual foundations of our democracy.'

How's Bible Society doing?

The recession has impacted all charities and that includes Bible Society. Although we have avoided cutting our programme of activities or the size of our staff team, we're still under pressure. Funding our extensive work in advocacy for the Bible and serving the needs of 146 Bible Societies overseas is a constant challenge.

Your church can help make the voice of the Bible heard around the world by meeting with one of our Regional Managers, supporting our annual Bible Sunday appeal or promoting Bible A Month – where each month a Bible is given away in your name. Details can be found on the new Bible Society website www.biblesociety.org.uk

Both the 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible coming up in 2011 and the Olympics in 2012 are unprecedented opportunities for *TransMission* readers and their churches to reach into the culture and help demonstrate the credibility of the Bible. Bible Society can help you make a difference in our generation.

James Catford
Chief Executive

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