



Word in Action

SPRING 2023



3 Fire up Easter and Lent with these resources

4 And now for some good news from Egypt

8 Building (biblical) bridges in the Middle East

Thanks for being part of Bible Society's mission

Dear supporter

my pastor read the Zacchaeus story at Christmas. A simple but incredibly powerful story (LUKE 19. 1-10).



As I sat there in church, I thanked God for the generosity of Bible Society supporters. I also felt incredibly blessed to be playing a small role as part of the Bible Society team. What you and I will be doing this year will be helping countless people worldwide experience their own Zacchaeus moments. Thanks to your support, people every year hear Jesus calling their name through the Scriptures. And they find hope and peace in our saviour's arms.

This edition of your magazine focuses on the middle East, with articles on good news from Egypt and an update on the Bible work you make possible in Israel and among Palestinians.

God bless you all this year and thank you for being part of the Bible mission team!

Simon Bartz

Simon Bartz, Editor
wia@biblesociety.org.uk

Front cover photography:
Your kind giving is putting a smile on the face of many children in Egypt. You're providing them with Scripture books and children's Bibles. Photo credit: Bible Society in Egypt

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Word in Action Spring 2023

Pointing to Jesus



Last year was very fruitful for Bible Society despite turbulence both here and abroad. A big part of this was your continued generosity. We never take your support for granted. We hugely appreciate it, especially in the current economic climate.

What we did in 2022 as we learned to live with Covid was to reconnect with the Church through festivals, events and conferences, renewing our significant partnerships with denominational and interdenominational groups like New Wine, the Gather Movement, and the Catholic Bishops' Conference. We found ourselves continually asked to help the Church in its mission with the Bible. It's very exciting for us to be a mission partner for the Church.

Internationally, we held a series of seven forums, encouraging our Bible Society partners to work together for Bible mission in their regional context. We were able to respond collectively to the Ukraine crisis. Bible printing was rapidly mobilised and scriptures were distributed to Ukrainians. Your amazing generosity made our Ukraine appeal one of the most successful in living memory.

Reaching out to non-Christians

This year we are rebranding ourselves, as you may have noticed with this magazine. I want to be really clear that this is not simply about a change of colours and a different logo but a shift of emphasis to make ourselves much more accessible to non-Christians. We believe this is a moment of enormous opportunity for Bible mission in Britain and we want to help the Church take the opportunity of reaching out.

You'll see this if you look at our new logo, for example. When you examine it, you will see the Bible opening before you. You will also see an open door. And at the centre of it all you will see a cross.

At the centre of all that we want to do in our Bible work, with Christians and with non-Christians, is to point to Jesus.

Paul Williams, Bible Society's Chief Executive

Bible Society

The Awesome Easter Surprise!

Share the good news of the Easter story with our new children's booklet *The Awesome Easter Surprise*.



It tells the wonderful stories of the people who met with Jesus after his resurrection – much to their surprise! With a clear gospel message and colourful illustrations, *The Awesome Easter Surprise* is the perfect gift for children in your family, church, schools and community. Available to buy for £3 each, with great bulk discount pricing.

Accompanying the booklet is an *Awesome Easter Pop-up Service*, free to download, based on *The Awesome Easter Surprise*. The pop-up service can be performed at your church or school with minimal preparation and tells the Easter story in a fun and engaging way, complete with character instructions and prop suggestions. Get rehearsing for your Easter service!

And who doesn't love a children's activity pack? *The Awesome Easter Activity Pack* is free to download, packed with fun Easter activities including colouring sheets, a wordsearch, crossword and crack the code. A wonderful way for children to celebrate Easter.

It doesn't end with Easter either! You can download a free *Pop-up Pentecost Family Service*. It's a creative and engaging all-age service to celebrate the birth of the Church on Pentecost Sunday.

Check out all our Easter resources at biblesociety.org.uk/easter



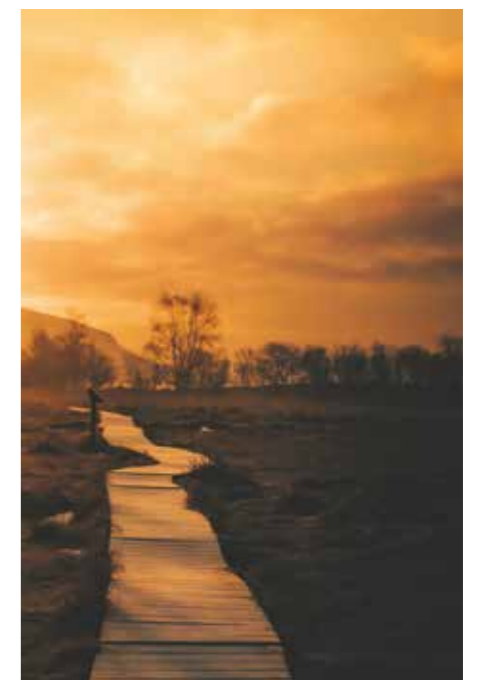
Lent approaches once again!

If you are looking for a free, easy, and compelling resource to journey through the season with, why not try Lent Encounter? Each week you will receive a brief video introduction by email to motivate you for the week ahead and a short audio reflection for each day, which you can listen to during your daily devotions, in the car, or even at the gym.

Each week of the Lent Encounter focuses on a particular Lenten theme and culminates in the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. The reflections have

been designed to build on one another as a real journey; a pilgrimage with Jesus. We hope that when you join us for this journey you will enjoy encountering the Bible in a new and rich way, experience a renewed encounter with Jesus, and feel prepared to enter into the celebration of Easter in a wonderful way.

Taking part in the Lent Encounter is totally free and is open to everyone. To sign up, please go to our website at: biblesociety.org.uk/lent23



Teaching a new generation to love the Bible in Egypt



Photos: Bible Society in Egypt

School children are delighted in Egypt to receive Scripture booklets provided thanks to your generous giving.

While the number of young people in UK churches is declining dramatically, in Egypt there's a thriving Bible ministry with teenagers.

Your support is making it happen.

The penny is dropping for Samir, a young engineer from Egypt. He's having a moment of quiet revelation ... a sudden, unexpected fresh understanding of the Bible. It will change everything about how he shares God's word.

'We need the big picture!' he exclaims. 'Without learning the context of the Bible passages we read, most of the

time we interpret it wrongly. We need both the near and far context to connect the Bible together.'

Samir is one of 1,000 young people who've been trained as Bible study group leaders in Egypt over the past year. He's part of an extraordinary ministry which is seeing a new generation engage with Scripture in a way we can



Thanks to you, this young couple are training to become Sunday school teachers in Egypt

barely imagine here at home. God is clearly at work – and support from people like you is fuelling this incredible work.

A young, connected community

'Egypt is a collective culture, and much more religious than the UK. Children and young people here are receptive to God's word,' said Lois Nagieb, from the Bible Society of Egypt. 'So we're building on that to develop a love and attachment to the Bible among teens, to grow their Christian faith.'

Egypt has an overwhelmingly young population. More than half of people are 24 or under, and a third are aged under 14. Around one in ten people are Christian and the majority of these are from the Coptic Orthodox Church.

As an ancient, minority and often isolated community, life for Egypt's believers revolves around church. 'In one poor district in Cairo, there's a church with 3,000 kids and teenagers,' said Lois. 'The church is everything; it provides summer activities, a safe social community, entertainment for the children, health clinics, tutoring. Going

Bible Society

to church is not an obligation, but a privilege and a joy.'

Alongside this powerful sense of fellowship and togetherness, Egypt's churches place a high value on Scripture. God's word is central to the rich, meaningful liturgies which are celebrated in community – and our team build on this reverence by helping people engage with the Bible.

Inspiring Bible-reading

In this context, we run three vital projects for young people – and the first is about training leaders like Samir. We work hand-in-hand with the church to equip young people. Participants get into God's word in a way they never have before, their lives are changed – and then they, too, step up to support church activities, including leading Bible study groups.

'This programme has been a real breakthrough,' said Lois. 'More and more requests are coming from churches and the potential is limitless.'

The second element is training Sunday school teachers. Even providing basic support to 500 teachers a year can impact more than 20,000 children. Leaders receive tips on effective teaching, classroom management, understanding how children develop and how to bring biblical themes to life.

Finally, your support is providing the Bible online. Social media is huge in Egypt – the country has one of the highest rates of social media use in the world – and culturally, Egyptians prefer oral storytelling to reading. So the team are providing bespoke audio Scriptures for children

and teens, and more social media content.

'Serving and supporting'

The impact of all this is plain to see. Walk into any Egyptian church and you'll see children and young people everywhere, delighting in God's word and engaging in Bible groups.

'Your support is filling a need gap,' said Lois. 'You are serving and supporting the church with biblical materials and creative resources which are not only appropriate to the traditional context, but are helping young people love the Bible.'



Claire Smith, Freelance writer

New Bible centre in Egypt's new capital

As a new Egyptian city takes shape in the desert, Bible Society plans to open a Bible centre in a prime shopping centre.

Work started on the New Administrative Capital in 2015, and it's fast becoming home to Cairo's government offices and embassies as well as to millions of people. Our team have been offered a top location in the heart of the commercial district – and are hoping to raise funds to move in.

'This incredible new city needs a Bible presence, and it would be our dream to establish a branch there,' said General Director Amir Elhamy (pictured).



Scripture in the Kitchen

There are hundreds of references to food and drink in the Bible and some of today's healthiest choices were part of the diet in those days, such as fish, olive oil, garlic, pomegranates, and, of course, milk and honey.

God initially prescribed a plant-based diet comprised of herbs and fruit (Genesis 1.29), but after the flood he blessed Noah and his sons (9.1-3) and widened the menu considerably by saying, 'Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you.'

Moses didn't mince his words in Leviticus 11 by laying down strict dietary laws. For bacon bap lovers back then it was bad news, as pigs were a no-no (11.7). Fish fans were delighted that they could eat anything in the water (11.9), but there was a catch, so to speak: so long as it had 'fins and scales'. Prawn cocktail? Forget it!

Now, we make our own decisions on what to eat. And we thank God for providing us with food.

This occasional column begins with two very simple Bible-inspired recipes.

Try them at home and be mindful and thankful to God with each bite.



Honeyed Fish

SERVES 2

They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.

Luke 24.42-43 (GNB)

Seafood was a staple in the Bible and a lot of it came out of the Sea of Galilee, a freshwater lake. Jesus ate a very simple meal when he reappeared to his followers after he had risen, showing them he was real and not a ghost! In some versions of the Bible, they gave him honeycomb with the fish.

Ingredients

- 1 tsp olive oil
- 1 garlic clove (chopped)
- 2 tbsp honey
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- 2 tsp soy sauce
- 2 fish (salmon, trout or other medium-firm fish steaks)

Method

1. Spread the oil on a large piece of tin foil and place it under the grill.
2. Mix the garlic, honey, lemon juice and soy sauce in a bowl, and coat the entire fish in the mixture.
3. Place the fish on the foil under low-heat and turn regularly until done.
4. Serve immediately with rice or bread and some salad when celebrating the resurrection this Easter!



David's Blessed Buns

MAKES 8

And when David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts and distributed among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins to each one. Then all the people departed, each to his house.

2 Samuel 6.18-19 (ESV)

Ingredients

- 100g brown sugar
- 200ml warm water
- 1 tbsp yeast
- 300g plain flour
- 1 tsp butter
- 100g raisins
- salt and your choice of spices like ginger, cinnamon, almond essence or mixed spice
- 1 tbsp honey (optional)

Method

1. Mix the sugar, yeast and water together and leave in a warm place for 30 minutes, so the yeast can start to activate.
2. Stir in the flour and butter and knead for 5 minutes.
3. Add your choice of spices and flavourings and then knead and shape into 8 round bun shapes.
4. Place on a greased tray and bake in the oven at Gas 6 (200° C) for 20 minutes, till risen and a nice colour.
5. Lovely toasted with butter while reading or singing your favourite psalms.

(Buns recipe from Bible Society's Beth Read)



Simon Cooper from Sainthill Baptist Church, a small fellowship in the Blackdown Hills, rode a staggering 338 miles and generously donated £1 for every mile cycled.

Thanks for baking, thanks for biking (both for Bibles)

Thank you to everyone who biked and baked for Bibles in the autumn to raise funds for Bibles for Ukrainian refugees.

In September, our super cyclists rode with us as part of Bike for Bibles. We are so grateful for your support and together you raised £9,170. We have loved seeing your photos and hearing your biking stories. In total you cycled more than 3,000 miles, which is the distance from the UK to Ukraine and back.

Joshva Raja, who works for Bible Society, cycled to the Ukraine and Russian embassies in London as part of his challenge. And when he got there he handed over a Bible in Ukrainian and a Bible in Russian, respectively.



Find out more at biblesociety.org.uk/wiafundraise

From September to November, our brilliant bakers raised over £1,200! From bake sales to bake offs and collecting donations in a church café, your efforts have raised enough to put Bibles into the hands of 240 Ukrainian refugees across Europe.

Thank you – at a time where Ukrainians are facing much uncertainty and anxiety, you are giving them the gift of hope and peace through God's word.

Bike and Bake for Bibles will return later this year, so get ready to join us and pedal or whisk your way through the autumn for a fantastic cause.

But you don't have to wait until then! You can explore lots of different ideas to gather friends, family and your church community to fundraise for Bible mission.

Super cyclists rode more than 3,000 miles, raising almost £10,000



Brilliant bakers raised enough to give hundreds of Bibles to Ukrainian refugees

Simon Bartz, Editor



Salt and light in the Bible Lands

The Bible Lands are among the most conflicted, divided regions in the world. But thanks to your support, people are meeting Jesus and growing in faith – through three amazing Bible Society heroes.

It's impossible to ignore the stark contrasts in the Bible Lands. As you travel around, biblical sites abound ... the place where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount, the spot where the 5,000 were fed, the road where the story of the Good Samaritan is set.

But the rich biblical heritage jars with the visible signs of conflict, which are everywhere.

The separation wall. The political graffiti. The military checkpoints.

Less than two per cent of the Bible Lands' population is Christian, and being part of a church is more about cultural identity than about lived-out faith. But in this volatile setting, people are encountering Jesus in the pages of the Bible – and he is changing lives.

Meet the three courageous people spearheading Bible work in the Bible Lands ...



Name: Dina Katanacho
Job: Director of the Arab Israeli Bible Society
Works with: the Arab Israeli community around Nazareth, and across Israel

- 30% of people in the area of Nazareth are Christian
- Arab Israeli community is marginalised and poor women and youth are a focus for ministry

Dina is a woman who gets things done. She's been sharing the Bible with this community since 2009, and has transformed the ministry. Today, Dina works with more than 100 churches of all denominations to distribute Bibles and help women and children, particularly, to engage with God's word. 'People need God,' she says, 'and if they don't hear the word, how can they believe?'

Christianity is largely cultural, and most Arab Israeli Christians have traditional backgrounds. But thanks to your support, many people are finding a new, deeper faith. 'There's a revival among the traditional churches,' said Dina. 'I am seeing things happening that weren't happening ten years ago ... God is making his Church alive again.'



Name: Nashat Filmon
Job: Leads the Bible Society serving Palestinians
Works with: Palestinian communities in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza

- Less than 1% of people living in the Palestinian territories are Christian
- 30 Bible Society staff and 150 volunteers share God's word
- 5 bookshops and ministry centres in the West Bank and East Jerusalem

Fifty-year-old Nashat was born in Jerusalem, and even from childhood knew God had a purpose for him. He studied business and hotel management at university – but soon after entering the hospitality industry he received an invitation to join the Bible Society. 'I had trained to serve food in hotels, but God said, "You will serve food ... but spiritual food,"' said Nashat.

Now a dad of four, Nashat runs several centres in the West Bank with impactful programmes for women, leaders and children. 'There are poor people all around, not just physically but spiritually,' said Nashat.

'The gospel has no borders or boundaries; that's why we reach all. Whether it's through leadership training, peace building or trauma healing, we take the word of God to people in the hardest places in the land.'

Thank you for supporting vital Bible work in the Holy Lands.

Please continue to pray.



Name: Victor Kalisher
Job: Executive Director of the Bible Society in Israel
Works with: Messianic Jews and others in wider Israel, based in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem

- Chief provider of Bibles and Christian resources in Israel
- 3 bookshops in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa
- Around 20,000 Messianic Jews live in Israel

Victor Kalisher is the son of a Holocaust survivor and pastor of a Messianic Jewish congregation in Israel. For 15 years, he's also headed up Bible work in Israel. His mission? To make God's word available, understandable and affordable to all.

Victor works closely with Messianic Jewish communities, who believe Jesus is the Jewish Messiah prophesied in the Hebrew Bible. These congregations see themselves as 100 per cent Jewish and 100 per cent Christian. He also oversees a huge Bible Society outreach programme in Tel Aviv's streets and parks. 'We meet many secular young Jews who are searching for something,' said Victor. 'And people are coming to faith among the migrant communities arriving here from Ukraine and Africa.'



Brick by Brick

Building a Bible House in one of the toughest places for Christians in Africa

There is a great and growing demand for God's word in Mali, despite the dangers Christians face there. The country has been beset by civil war and Islamist terrorism for many years and this presents the Bible Society team in Mali with enormous challenges. Bible work is made even harder by the lack of adequate facilities, equipment and infrastructure.

But the generosity of Bible Society supporters is about to make a lasting impact. Right now, Jacques Dembele, who leads Bible Society in Mali, rents offices from a sympathetic Muslim landlord,



Jacques Dembele (right), who leads Bible Society in Mali, presents a church leader with Scripture resources.



Women attend a Bible-based literacy class in Mali.

Photo credit: Joaquin Dassonville

but the man's family is hostile to the arrangement. The situation is very fragile.

So plans have been drawn up to build a sustainable and secure Bible House that will meet the growing needs of Christians in Mali. Land has been purchased and a building committee established, made up of a team of Christians – an engineer, architect and building contractor. They are giving their time for free to support the project.

Initial estimates put the construction of the Bible House at £650,000.

It will be a multi-purpose facility with staff offices, a bookshop, library, conference rooms and training facilities.

The site will also have its own well, providing water security. And an outdoor area with plants and benches under straw huts will offer an additional place for reflection and much needed shade. The Bible House compound will have some additional space to be rented out to small businesses or tenants, which will contribute in a small way to the financial sustainability of Bible Society in Mali.

Jacques and his team now need help to build the Bible House.

Bible Society's online Brick by Brick campaign offers an exciting opportunity for businesses, churches and donors to contribute and sponsor the building of a room, or a window, toilet or solar panels, or buy other essential equipment such as furniture and computers for the Bible House. Even if you are an individual who would like to donate a small amount, every brick counts! The amount you give is entirely up to you.

Find out more information at biblesociety.org.uk/brickbybrick

And if you require any further information, please contact philip.gay@biblesociety.org.uk or call 07553 676729 or scan the QR code.




Philip Gay,
Key Relationships Manager

Psalm 23 Garden project keeps on growing

'The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want ...'



Psalm 23 Garden creator Sarah Eberle shows the garden to actress Sally Phillips at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

Photo credit: Bible Society

When the Psalm 23 Garden was exhibited at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, its designer Sarah Eberle encouraged communities, churches and schools to create their own Psalm 23-inspired gardens. Eighteen months on, you have taken up Sarah's challenge with style.

You've created Psalm 23-inspired gardens in churchyards, school grounds, plots of disused land, and even back gardens.

Psalm 23-themed gardens have popped up everywhere from Jersey to Liverpool, Cardiff to Norfolk. And every one of those gardens enables those who spend time in them to encounter the psalm, with God's love and hope. They are an embodiment of the scripture that will always live on. It's been thrilling to see these gardens grow.

Elizabeth Brandwood from Wallasey in Merseyside decided to create a garden at St Nicholas' Church, having visited the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Poor soil and a location right next to the sea were no barrier to her dreams. She said she hoped that the garden would enable locals to stop and begin a spiritual journey.

'I think the hardest thing for people who aren't regular churchgoers is the first step. If we can provide a way in which they can access it easily, and feel the calm in this place, that's so important,' she said. 'I'm hoping that the garden will have an emotional effect on people and give them a place to sit and think.'

All Saints' Church of England Primary School in Marple, near Stockport, was one of several schools to create a garden for the children.

Sarah Holton was one of the team who created it. 'Because of the pandemic, we wanted the children to have some verses to hang on to at this point in their lives,' she said. 'We were struck by how Psalm 23 was so relevant. In six verses it allows the children to feel sadness and yet to know that God is with them in it all.'

Sarah Eberle's original garden is now in its permanent home at Winchester Hospice. Here it provides 'help' and 'perspective' for patients, their families and staff, according to the Head of Palliative Care, Maddy Thomson.

'To have this garden is the icing on a very, very special cake,' she said. 'It has provided so much life for the whole body of the hospice.'

There's still time to create your own Psalm 23-inspired garden.

You can download resources to help you do that and see the garden at the hospice at biblesociety.org.uk/wiapsalm23 or scan the QR code.




Hazel Southam,
Project Storytelling Manager

Dealing with different attitudes towards the Bible

We are all humans made in God's image but we're not all the same. We are unique; we have our distinct personalities, and different likes and dislikes.



Mission leaders meet in Africa to explore ways to make the Bible more relevant to people across the continent.

When you think about the people in your village, town or city, what are some of their attitudes towards the Bible?

How do people in your church use the Bible in their daily life? What things stop people from engaging with the Bible?

These questions are at the heart of Bible Society's Global Research Project exploring people's attitudes, behaviours towards and barriers against the Bible.

Why is Bible Society conducting this research?

We are approaching a point in history when nearly everyone on the planet will have access to the Bible. By 2033, it's thought that 99 per cent of people in the world will have a Bible in their language, which they can access online or in print. It means the task of translating God's word and distributing it around the world would be almost complete.

But having access to the Bible is only one part of the story. Like Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8, we need to help people engage with the Bible, shifting the Bible from a written text to a transformational experience which changes how we live.

Please support this project in prayer; read more in *Prayer in Action* in June.

What's involved in the project?

- Bringing together leaders of Bible Society teams around the world in Bible Engagement Forums
- Working with global research experts Gallup to hear what over 100,000 people from 100 countries around the world think about the Bible

The Bible Engagement Forums are taking place over three years from 2022 to 2024. Each year there are seven forums held around the world. Each forum brings together leaders of Bible Society teams who work in countries that share similar religious, linguistic and cultural traits.

These forums help increase everyone's understanding of how to make the Bible relevant to different people. Leaders learn from each other. They share stories of success and failure about Bible engagement activities they already run. They encourage each other. And space is given to listen to God's word and pray together about increasing people's engagement with the Bible in their country and across their region.



Richard Powney, Senior Research Manager

Exciting events lined up for legacy givers in 2023

In the spring of 2022 we invited many of our supporters who have left gifts for Bible mission in their will to visit Lambeth Palace, writes Howard Barker, Head of Legacy Giving.

My colleague Fleur Dorrell took us on a fascinating journey through Easter using art, while other colleagues described the impact of our supporters' generosity. You can see a video of the day, including interviews with some of your fellow supporters, at biblesociety.org.uk/legacy

In previous years we've run events at the House of Commons, the British Library and St Bartholomew the Great (London's oldest surviving church) and at the time of writing we are dreaming dreams of where to go in 2023.

We hope to hold regional events in the future at Bible Society's archive of priceless Bibles at Cambridge University, and also at John Rylands library in Manchester, for example.

James from Gloucestershire, who attended the Lambeth Palace event, said, 'I like what Nigel [Langford, Director of Domestic Mission at Bible Society] said about not shying away from what the Bible says and not changing the word of God to suit our context but taking into our context the word of God.'

At these events we show the direct impact of gifts in wills, such as building a Children's Mission Centre in Eswatini, and try to give you an insight into something else, such as the Bible's influence in art, music or politics. We'd love to show



Legacy givers listen to Bible Society's Fleur Dorrell at a special event in Lambeth Palace.

Photo credit: Bible Society

you our appreciation; so if you are prayerfully considering a gift in your will to Bible Society do tell us. Give our friendly Contact Centre a call on 01793 418222 or email me at howard.barker@biblesociety.org.uk or scan the QR code.



Howard Barker, Head of Legacy Giving

Join us on 15 March to remember the lives of those who have passed

In the last few years we've experienced much loss here at home. We've lost relatives and close friends through Covid. We've also lost our Queen.

Gather with us on 15 March 2023 as we come together to remember, reflect and celebrate the lives of loved ones who have passed away. We'll be led in a time of worship including singing and prayer by our Church Engagement Manager Gareth Davies. He will draw from the Bible in a short talk.

Join us at University Church Oxford from 1.45 pm for a 2 pm start, followed by refreshments after the service.

Please RSVP via the QR code below or contact our friendly support team on 01793 418222. Bookings will close on 8 March 2023.

biblesociety.org.uk/memorial23



Your letters & comments



I was very impressed by the article on Bible Society's work in Ukraine – what a splendid man Anatoliy Raychynets is, choosing to stay, giving Bibles in such a dangerous situation.
(Elizabeth, Stockport)

Excellent, I read Word in Action from cover to cover at least twice and then pass it on, usually to my hairdresser. Thank you for the information. God bless.
(Pauline, Stoke-on-Trent)

Simon: Great idea Pauline! If Word in Action appeared in more hairdressing salons and other waiting areas more people would find out how the Bible changes lives.

I think it is crucial now more than ever to spread the news of the gospel, particularly in places hard to reach. People must know that there is hope and we have a saviour JESUS CHRIST!
(Beverley, London)

Thank you very much for regular prayer news which I use every day. It is wonderful how much prayer God is answering for the well being of others.
(Brian, Tunbridge Wells)

Good to see your folk handing out Bibles, especially in Ukraine.
(Olive, London)

I was thrilled to read about The Gambia. I went there on a holiday some years ago. On our first day a group of children attached themselves to us and came everywhere with us. We made many friends. I often think of them and pray for them to know Jesus.
(Rosemary, Bristol)



Loved your picture of the Queen, and her inspiring words, am preparing to frame it!
(Mrs Quintanilla, Bristol)

Dear Mr Bartz, a great testimony. Was it yours or that of the Japanese homeless lady? I would like to hear your complete testimony if it was about you! I enclose a cheque for £100 for Bibles for Ukraine.
(James, London)

Simon: Thanks James. It was my testimony. Sadly, that lady, a good friend of mine, passed away before she could see the magazine. I will distribute copies of that edition to her neighbours down by the river when I return to Japan this spring.



Photo credit: Tony Hirano

One Verse



Gareth Davies - Church Engagement Manager
Psalm 40.1-3

Perhaps it's because I struggle with patience that the opening verse of Psalm 40 speaks to me so provocatively.

I'm sure when I sing out loud 'I waited patiently for the Lord' there's a knowing chuckle in the heavenly realm. 'When did that ever happen?' the Trinity might muse. But that's why it is so powerful to me, for sometimes I know an unnatural patience and persistence in prayer that I cannot deny has been graciously given for this purpose.

Whether it be when I was praying for my newly-born offspring in neonatal intensive care or when feeling as if in the slimy pit of despair following broken relationships, God is in the waiting. And all this would be in vain except that he is hearing, he is listening and he is turning towards me with the power to change my footing. Rather than letting me helplessly slide around, he reminds me of the firm place of faith in Christ. In place of cold isolation, there is warm embrace and a sure and certain hope. And that new song is sung again.

Bible people



Tim Cosby, retired Financial Planner and active Bible Society volunteer

'At Bible Society we believe that when people engage with the Bible their lives can be changed, for good.' This statement, which I saw on a wall during my introductory day in the Swindon head office, generated the enthusiasm for me to work as a Bible Society volunteer.

What do I do as a volunteer? Anything that supports that statement! I may be helping on a stand at an event or speaking to an organisation or church group. Bible Society provides a

challenge for me – how to keep up with all the wonderful range of materials and promotions that are constantly made available. A good example is the highly successful Open the Book, which brings Scripture stories to primary age children within an established and educationally accepted framework. Open the Book provides a great opportunity for churches to reach out to primary schools. I am a member of our local Open the Book team and it's great fun!

I joined Bible Society as a volunteer at the same time as *The Bible Course* was launched.

This is such a valuable asset to introduce to Christian leaders. The subsequent Bible Series and now Bible Trek Egypt have provided me with wonderful opportunities to help people to engage with the Bible.

Go here to find out more about volunteering: biblesociety.org.uk/wiavolunteer



Bible of the year award

Our Good News Bible – Family Edition has won Bible of the Year at the recent Christian Resources Together Awards!

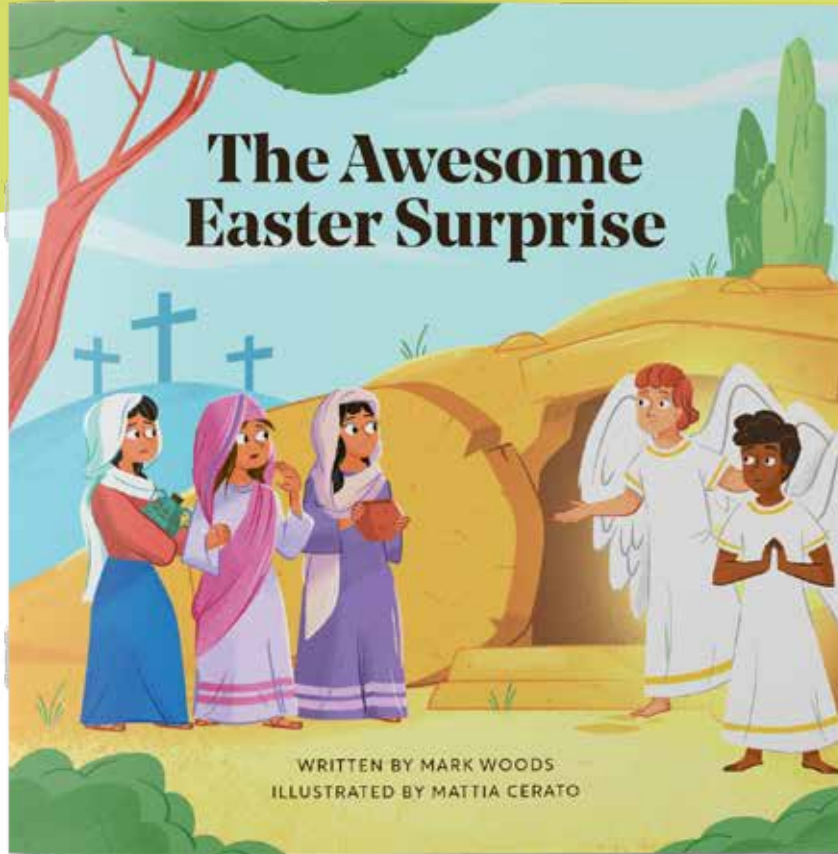
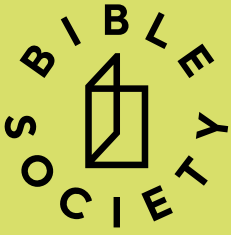
We designed this Bible for the whole family to use together and we're delighted that the unique layout, features and resources have been recognised by Christian Resources Together.

Families are spending time together and feeling closer to God while strengthening their faith.

'I had the loveliest time last night with my kids exploring it. My two children were at the table with the resource and were completely engrossed in it!' **(Hannah Persaud, Mum)**

Discover more at biblesociety.org.uk/GNB-FE





The Awesome Easter Surprise!

Share the good news of the Easter story with our new children's booklet *The Awesome Easter Surprise*.

With a clear gospel message and colourful illustrations, *The Awesome Easter Surprise* is the perfect gift for children in your family, church, schools and community. Available to buy for £3 each, with great bulk discount pricing.

Check out all our Easter resources at biblesociety.org.uk/easter



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