

SUMMER 2026

Word at Work

SHARING THE BIBLE SO ALL PEOPLE CAN KNOW JESUS





@biblesocietyni

27 Howard Street,
Belfast, BT1 6NB

Tel: 028 9032 6577
info@biblesocietyni.co.uk
www.biblesocietyni.co.uk

Registered Charity NIC110628

A Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered in Northern Ireland NI727806

Editor's Note

Thank you for picking up this latest edition of *Word at Work!* In mid-April, I had the privilege of hosting some of the fundraisers from different European Bible Societies here in Belfast, to share learning, and support for one another as we all strive for a world where everyone can access the Bible.

I pray you will be blessed, but also challenged, by the stories you read in the following pages as we seek to continue sharing the Bible so all people can know Jesus.

PS. We would love to see you at one of our events in September!



Aaron Sweeney
Communications &
Projects Manager



Standing Together in Bible Mission

We are living in a rapidly changing and deeply challenging world.

Conflict, displacement, poverty and persecution shape the daily reality for millions of people—and for many of our brothers and sisters in Christ, these pressures directly affect how they live out their faith and serve God's Word. Yet, even in the darkest places, Scripture continues to bring hope, courage and life.

As part of the global fellowship of United Bible Societies, Bible Society Northern Ireland stands shoulder to shoulder with Bible Societies serving in some of the most complex and fragile contexts in the world. Many of our colleagues work quietly and faithfully where the Church is a minority, where access to Scripture is limited, and where sharing the Bible can come at significant personal cost. Their perseverance is a powerful testimony to God's faithfulness.

In these settings, the Bible is more than a book - it is a lifeline. Through translation into heart languages, discreet distribution,

literacy programmes and creative Bible engagement, lives are being transformed. Communities are strengthened, faith is nurtured, and hope is sustained amid uncertainty.

The writer to the Hebrews reminds us: "Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works" (Hebrews 10:24, KJV). We are called not to look away, but to stand with one another - through prayer, generosity and practical partnership.

We have the privilege of walking alongside those who serve on the front lines, ensuring that God's Word continues to be present, accessible and alive, despite the challenges of our world today. Thank you for your continued prayers and generosity, plying your part in this most vital work.



Wilson Beare
Chief Executive Officer

At Home

We're hitting the road!



A NIGHT WITH BIBLE SOCIETY

This September Bible Society is hitting the road for a series of inspiring events across Northern Ireland. *A Night with the Bible Society* will bring together friends, supporters, and anyone curious about the work of Bible Societies both here and around the world. We're excited to be visiting Lisburn, Enniskillen, and Derry/Londonderry for 3 inspiring evenings of celebration, storytelling, and inspiration.

Each night will be a unique opportunity to see how God is

at work through Bible Societies - from distributing Scriptures in local communities to supporting translation projects in some of the world's most challenging places. These events are a chance to hear first-hand stories of hope, transformation, and faith, and to celebrate the incredible impact of your support.

So, whether you are a long-time friend of Bible Society Northern Ireland, or are new to our work, these evenings are designed to inform, inspire, and encourage.

Save the date!

All 7pm for 7:30pm start

Derry/Londonderry
Tuesday 22nd September
Kilfennan Presbyterian Church

Enniskillen
Thursday 24th September
Fermanagh Christian Fellowship

Lisburn
Friday 25th September
T3 Centre at Vic Ryn, Lisburn

Come, celebrate, and be inspired. Together, we can continue to make a difference through the work of Bible Societies both near and far.

We warmly invite you to join us and bring someone with you who would love to hear about this vital work. It's a perfect opportunity to introduce a friend, family member, or colleague to our shared mission.

Summer in the Sun (hopefully...)

This Summer, we're embracing the (hopefully) good weather and heading out to a few festivals to meet you. Once again, we will be at Summer Madness in Portlengone from 27th-29th June, delivering 3 seminars looking at the big story of the Bible, the Old Testament, and



how we can trust the Bible. We'll also be leading some Bible study sessions throughout the weekend!

That same weekend, we'll be calling in to NUA Festival in

Newcastle, so if you see us around, we would love to chat with you there.

Please pray for these festivals, and for all those who will be there.

A Life Written by God's Word

**“But I will
restore you
to health and
heal your
wounds.”**

Jeremiah 30:17a

The Faith of Mrs Lalthianghlimi



In the hills of Mizoram, a state in northeastern India, the quiet and faithful devotion of Mrs Lalthianghlimi has become a powerful testimony to the living Word of God. Over a ten-year period from 2015 to 2025, she handwrote the entire Bible in the Mizo language, not once, but 12 times.

Dr. Hrangthan Chhungi from the Bible Society of India, spoke with Mrs Lalthianghlimi on the telephone in January and documented her testimony of God's transforming power.

What may appear extraordinary in discipline is, at its heart, something far deeper. An act of sustained worship, surrender, and intimate communion with God.

Each page she wrote was an encounter with God's Word. Her story demonstrates a profound truth at the core of Bible ministry: when people engage deeply with the Bible in their heart language, it transforms lives.

Perseverance Through Grief

Her journey with Scripture became deeply personal long before tragedy struck. As she wrote passages describing loss, leadership, and God's care for the vulnerable, the Word began preparing her heart for a future she could not yet see.

In November 2018, her husband, Mr Lalchhuanawma, died at just 54 years of age. Following the death of her husband, she entered a season of grief, financial hardship, and emotional struggle.

Left to raise two young children, the younger of whom was just one year old, while burdened by debt and uncertainty, she also faced ridicule from those who dismissed her devotion as impractical.

Yet even in this dark valley, she continued writing. This persistence reveals the sustaining power of Scripture. The Bible, far from being a distant text, became her refuge, her companion, and her source of strength.



She describes kneeling beside her handwritten pages, sometimes weeping, sometimes laughing softly through tears, sometimes simply sitting in silence. Mrs Lalthianghlimi talked to God like one would to a faithful friend, and refused to surrender the pen.

God's Promises Fulfilled

As she pressed on, the Word she wrote began to restore her. Promises such as Jeremiah 30:17a, "But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds", became anchors in her suffering.

Through prayer, perseverance, and the quiet work of the Holy Spirit, her life began to change. Debts were gradually repaid. Her unfinished home became a source of provision. Emotional wounds slowly healed. Even her physical health was restored in ways she attributes to God's faithfulness.

What began as an act of devotion became a transformation,

demonstrating that Scripture does not merely inform; it renews, sustains, and rebuilds.

Ongoing Legacy

Today, Mrs Lalthianghlimi's legacy extends far beyond the pages she has written. Her children have grown up witnessing a lived faith, seeing that the Word of God is not an escape from hardship, but a light within it.

Her story embodies the very mission of Bible Societies around the world: to ensure that people can encounter God's Word in a language and form that speaks to their hearts. In her case, that encounter was so deep, so persistent, that it shaped the course of her life.

Her life stands as a living testimony that declares, with quiet conviction, that the Word of God is alive and, when deeply received, has the power to rewrite human stories with hope, healing, and restoration.



One Verse

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?”

Micah 6:8a

Recently, I've been drawn to a verse that is likely very familiar to most of us, Micah 6:8. In particular the line, “what does the Lord require of you?”, has been running around my head for a few months.

It would be easy for me to say, “I know what God requires, for me to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him”, but what does that mean for me today? And what does that mean for you reading this magazine?

I find the Message paraphrase of this verse helpful as I consider what it means for me. “It’s quite simple: do what is fair and just to your neighbour, be compassionate and loyal in your love, and don’t take yourself too seriously – take God seriously.”

As I reflect on my own context, my daily rhythms, this passage causes me to stop, to think, and to be more intentional. It’s that last instruction that I love, “don’t take yourself too seriously – take God seriously.” It can be so easy to get caught up in the busyness of life, and to make myself the centre of my world, when in reality God should be the centre. In making Him the focus in all I do, I am blessed by witnessing how He is moving in the everyday, mundane things as well as the bigger, exciting things.

What does God require of me? To live fairly and lovingly, and to walk through life keeping my eyes fixed on Him.



Aaron Sweeney
Communications &
Projects Manager

Summer Bible Reflection

⁶ With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? ⁸ He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Read Micah 6:6–8 in whichever translation of the Bible you like.

1 The people ask what they can bring to God - offerings and sacrifices, bringing their very best. Are there ways you are tempted to measure faithfulness by what you do for God, rather than by how you walk with Him? What might God be inviting you to re-examine?

2 The response shifts the focus from religious performance to daily living. (v8). What does it look like, in your own context, to act justly and to love mercy? Where might God be calling you to reflect His heart more clearly in the way you treat others?

3 The call to ‘walk humbly with your God’ speaks of an ongoing, relational journey. How might taking God more seriously, and yourself less seriously, shape your priorities, choices, or attitude this week? What would it look like to keep God at the centre of your everyday life?

Prayer at Work

Please join us as we pray for every Bible Society and their work throughout this year.

Terms & Abbreviations

FCBH: Faith Comes by Hearing - A programme providing audio Scripture for listening groups, set up mainly through local churches.

Trauma Healing: Bible-based counselling for survivors of traumas such as epidemics, disasters or war.

OT/NT: Old/New Testament.

GS: General Secretary

ED/ES: Executive Director/Secretary

CEO: Chief Executive Officer

MAY 31 - JUNE 6

Indonesia Pray for the Indonesian Bible Society as they continue to teach literacy skills to those who cannot read or write, and that these people would be transformed by learning God's Word. Pray for the team as they distribute Scriptures and promote Bible engagement across the country. Ask God to bless the NT translation into Pakpak Dairi. Pray for GS Sigit Triyono and his staff team.

Micronesia Pray for the Micronesia Partnership as they work from the Philippines throughout the region's 2100 islands, making the Bible accessible and affordable to every person who lives there. Pray as they partner with local Churches and organisations to reach the hearts of children, young people, adults and the elderly, bringing them hope by sharing the Good News of Christ. Pray for Perry Cartera as she manages the partnership, and those she works with.

Papua New Guinea Pray for the Bible Society of Papua New Guinea as they rebuild for sustainable mission. Pray as they carry out urgent translation work to make Scriptures available in the heart languages of many. There are 840 tribal languages here and they are currently working with Tok Pisin, Magi, Vula'a, Motu Pa, Aekyom, Gogodala and Yuna. Pray for GS Joel Peter and his staff team.

JUNE 7-13

England & Wales Pray for the British and Foreign Bible Society as they help people engage with God's Word by providing resources like The Bible Course and The Romans Course. Praise God for the completion of the Patmos Initiative research examining Bible attitudes and measuring Bible engagement worldwide. Pray for CEO Paul Williams, and the whole team here.

Scotland Pray for the Scottish Bible Society as they deliver Trauma Healing training across Scotland, equipping local facilitators to help others process trauma biblically. Pray for their 'Bibles for Bairns' project, providing free toddler Bibles and Bible engagement resources to families in Scotland. Pray for CEO Elaine Duncan, and her team.

Northern Ireland Pray for Bible Society Northern Ireland as we strive to share the Bible so all people can know Jesus. Praise God for our 'Bibles for Babies' project and the dedication of our volunteers to this ministry. Pray for CEO Wilson Beare, the staff team, and the board of trustees as they seek to serve our shared mission in Northern Ireland and beyond.

JUNE 14-20

Ireland Pray for Bible Society Ireland as they continue to help people engage in the Bible in new ways. Pray for the continued development of strong relationships with local churches and across denominations. Pray for GS Dr Julie McKinley and the board of trustees here as they carry out this work.

São Tomé and Príncipe Pray for the Bible Society of São Tomé and Príncipe as they seek to ensure that Scriptures are available for churches around the two islands, whilst providing biblical training and study Bibles to leaders in the community. Pray also for their distribution work in disadvantaged places. Pray for GS Mendes Varela and the staff team here.

Cabo Verde Pray for the Bible Society in Cabo Verde as they work to promote the Bible as a source of cultural, ethical, and human values in Cabo Verdean society. Pray for the Bible distribution work around the islands, and the central building on the island of Santiago to coordinate the distribution of Bible. Pray for GS Adriano Lopes and the staff team here.

JUNE 21-27

USA Pray for the American Bible Society as they strive to transform America through Scripture engagement, Bible innovation and advocacy. Praise God for their support of Bible translation work around the world so that more people can experience God's life-changing message in their heart language. Pray for CEO Dr Jennifer Holloran and her staff team.

Canada Pray for the Canadian Bible Society as they continue to work towards a vision of helping people to hear God speaking through his Word in Canada and across the world. Praise God for the many resources they have produced to help people engage in the Bible. Pray for President Rev Dr Rupen Das and his staff team.

Mexico Pray for the Bible Society of Mexico as they strive to support visually impaired people to engage with the Bible. Pray for the many ongoing Bible translations into the different heart languages of people across Mexico, including the production of audio Bibles in some native languages. Pray for the staff and board here as they carry out this work.

JUNE 28 – JULY 4

Hong Kong Pray for the Hong Kong Bible Society as they seek to help more people to engage in God's Word through digital media. Ask God to encourage the leaders of Christian communities here in their roles. Pray for the team as they build relationships with local churches and Christian organisations. Pray for Acting GS Tseun Yuen, Ignatius Lee and the staff team here.

China Pray for the UBS China Partnership as they continue to support Chinese Christians through providing affordable Bibles. Pray for the continued support of the Bible printing press in Amity. Pray also as they continue to supply Study Bibles to Lay Preachers in China to promote Bible confidence and understanding. Pray for Director Dr Bernard Low and the staff team here.

Bangladesh Pray for the Bangladesh Bible Society as they continue their translation and distribution work focusing on providing Scripture materials for the Santal youth and children in their heart language to promote spiritual development. Pray for their work in schools to reach children and young people through their 'Students Action for Christ' project. Pray for GS Ashim Kumar Baroi and the staff team here.

JULY 5-11

Singapore Pray for the Bible Society of Singapore as they continue their ministry work among the Chinese community. Pray for that they will be able to reach more people with God's Word, and that they will see lives transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray for GS Rev Ezekiel Tan and the staff team here.

Malaysia Pray for the Bible Society of Malaysia as they continue to supply migrant workers and refugees with Scripture. Pray for the translation of the Old Testament in Penan and the re-printing of the New Testament, and that these will bless many people. Pray for GS Rev Mathew Punnoose and the staff team here.

Philippines Pray for the Philippine Bible Society as they work on producing and distributing Braille Bibles and Scripture portions in English, Tagalog, and other major languages in the Philippines. Praise God for the 'Bible Learning Group' project helping those who cannot read to engage with the Bible. Pray for the staff team and board here.

JULY 12-18

Burundi Pray for the Bible Society of Burundi as they run Trauma Healing and Reconciliation projects including a radio program of the Trauma Healing material. Pray for the ongoing translation of Study Bibles in multiple languages aiming to help churches communicate God's Word more effectively. Pray for GS Jonas Ndayiragije and the staff team here.

Cameroon Pray for the Bible Society of Cameroon as they continue working on many Bible translations and revisions. Praise God for the team of translators and pray for the people waiting to receive these translations. Pray for their Trauma Healing projects, that the people attending would be comforted. Pray for GS Rev Dr Charlemagne Ndittemeh and the staff team here.

Gabon Pray for the Bible Society in Gabon, and for the Good Samaritan Project running there. Pray too for the ongoing translation work of the Bible into several heart languages. Pray for the work with children and young people teaching them life skills and biblical values. Pray for GS Rev Dr Thierry Mabiola and the staff team here.

JULY 19-25

Cambodia Pray for the Bible Society in Cambodia as they continue to share their 'Learning through Listening' programme using Scripture to empower illiterate people, young and old, especially in rural Cambodia. Give thanks to God for translation and revision work of the Bible into Kravet and Khmer. Pray for ED Pisit Heng and the staff team here.

Vietnam Pray for Bible Society Vietnam as they continue to work on translations into Eastern Cham, Tai Dam, Black Hmong, Muong, Nung Chao and Tai Don. Praise God for their work on sign language videos for deaf people in South Vietnam. Pray for the work on the Vietnamese Study Bible. Pray for ED Quan Phan, President Vu Le, and the staff team here.

Thailand Pray for the Thailand Bible Society as they continue working on translating the Bible into Thai Sign Language and for the production of the Thai Study Bible. Pray for the Bible Quiz project helping children to engage with the Bible. Pray for GS Rev Prakich Treetasayuth and the staff team here.

JULY 26 – AUGUST 1

Congo Pray for the Bible Society of Congo working to translate portions of Scripture into Beembe, Téké (Zanaga), Kunyi, Yaka, Tsaangi and Mbosi. Pray for the translation work of more New Testament stories into Congolese Sign Language and the recording of videos to help the deaf community engage in the Bible. Pray for the staff team here.

DR Congo Pray for the Bible Society of the Democratic Republic of Congo as they seek to share God's Word with people of all ages in their heart languages. Pray for Christians here as they live out their faith. Pray for the staff team and for everyone they encounter.

Chad Pray for the Bible Society of Chad as they continue to run their FCBH program in partnership with local churches. Pray also as they empower Christian women by supplying God's Word for Bible training. Praise God for the ongoing Bible translations and revisions into local languages. Pray for the staff team here.

Prayer at Work

AUGUST 2-8

Netherlands Antilles & Aruba

Pray for the Bible Society of the Dutch Caribbean as continue to supply Scriptures to people in Curaçao, Aruba, and Bonaire. Ask God to bless the 'Bible & Film Bus', introducing people to the message of the Papiamentu NT. Pray as they raise awareness of the Bible Society here. Pray for GS Armin Elisa and the staff team here.

Suriname

Pray for the Suriname Bible Society and for their distribution work among refugees in Guyana and Suriname. Pray for their work to make the Sranantongo Bible available in Braille for visually impaired people. Pray for ongoing translation projects into the heart languages of people across the country. Pray for GS Erny Van Axel and the staff team here.

Venezuela

Pray for the United Bible Societies in Venezuela as they work to raise awareness of their presence within the country amidst the current political and economic crisis. Pray for the ongoing work on the first translation of the Bible into Sign Language for the deaf community. Pray for the ongoing translations into Curripaco, Pemon and Huḡttǝjǝ (Piaroa). Pray for the staff team here.

AUGUST 9-15

Costa Rica Pray for the Bible Society of Costa Rica as they raise awareness and activate local churches to take care of the environment. Give thanks to God for the translation work on the Ngäbere Bible. Pray for their work with visually impaired people, supplying Braille Bibles where needed. Pray for GS Gabriel Brais and the staff team here.

Panama

Pray for the Bible Society of Panama as they encourage people to interact with the Bible through supplying Scriptures in their heart languages. Pray for the team who are teaching spiritual values to vulnerable children living in areas of high delinquency. Pray for GS Marco Gómez and the staff team here.

Nicaragua

Pray for the Bible Society of Nicaragua as they work to provide Braille Bibles to the deaf community. Pray for their pastoral care for children and their relatives in cancer clinics through the 'Hope and Smile for Children with Cancer' project. Pray as they introduce the Gospel to thousands through the 'Jesus' movie. Pray for GS Freddy Fonseca and the staff team here.

AUGUST 16-22

Côte D'Ivoire

Pray for the Bible Society of Côte d'Ivoire staff and the board of trustees. Pray for their work in Bible Translation and for their connections with the local church. Please continue praying for stability and growth after a difficult season for the Bible Society here.

Liberia

Pray for the Bible Society in Liberia as they continue to run their Trauma Healing program for victims of abuse. Pray for their work with rural communities, listening to God's Word in their heart languages and providing literacy classes. Pray for the many ongoing translation projects, some for the first time. Pray for the staff team and board here.

Sierra Leone

Pray for the Bible Society in Sierra Leone as they support translators working on translating Scripture into Sherbro, Kono and Mende. Pray for the youth outreach workers engaging with hard-to-reach, at-risk children and young people to teach them about the Bible. Pray for the staff team and board here.

AUGUST 23-29

Croatia Pray for the Croatian Bible Society as they continue the 'See and Believe' project, translating the Bible into Croatian Sign Language. Praise God for the completion of the modern version of the Croatian Bible, helping more people to access the Bible. Pray for GS Damir Lipovsek and the staff team here.

Serbia Pray for the Bible Society of Serbia as they run Bible engagement work in the Orthodox church. Pray for the translation work of the New Testament for a new generation, making it more accessible. Pray for the work with Roma children as they engage with the Bible in their heart language. Pray for GS Vera Mitić and the staff team here.

Romania Pray for the Interconfessional Bible Society in Romania and revision of the Cornilescu Bible. Praise God for their project working with children with Down Syndrome, which helps them to engage in the Bible. Pray for their Trauma Healing project helping those psychologically affected by the communist regime. Pray for GS Emilia Iorgandopol and the staff team here.

AUGUST 30 – SEPTEMBER 5**West Indies**

Pray for the Bible Society of the West Indies as they continue to build support for their mission. Praise God for the '100 Steps Family Bible' project which distributed 10,000 Family Bibles in Jamaica and The Bahamas. Pray for GS Rev Courtney Stewart and the staff team here.

Cuba Pray for the Cuban Bible Society distributing Scriptures through the 'Bible for Every Cuban' project. Praise God for the Cuban Sign Language Bible Translation helping the deaf community to engage with the Bible. Pray for the 'Kófinos' project supplying 'Baskets of Blessings' to people to promote Bible engagement. Pray for GS Dr Alain Montano and the staff team here.

Haiti Pray for the Haitian Bible Society as they provide free Scriptures to school children. Praise God for the programmes equipping churches and church leaders with training and resources. Pray for the FCBH project which aims to help those who cannot read to engage with God's Word. Pray for GS Magda Victor and the staff team here.

SEPTEMBER 6-12

Cyprus Pray for the Bible Society in Cyprus as they continue to share God's Word with those who need it most. Pray for the staff team as they keep building strong and fruitful relationships with local churches and Christian organisations. Pray for GS Michail Chatziyiannis and the staff team here.

Turkey Pray for the Bible Society in Turkey as they work on the Kurdish translation of the Old Testament, and the revision of the Turkish Bible. Praise God for the 'Bible Hub' bookshops providing places for believers to buy Christian resources. Pray for GS Tamar Karasu and the staff team here.

Syria Pray for the Bible Society in Syria providing Bible-based Trauma Healing for those affected by war. Pray for their work with children and young people as they introduce them to God's Word and train Sunday School teachers. Pray for GS Nabil Saad and the staff team here.

SEPTEMBER 13-19

Poland Praise God for the Bible Society in Poland and for the revision of the Warsaw Bible. Pray for the distribution of Bibles to children and young people in Poland, and for the impact this will have on their lives. Pray for their ongoing work on their digital presence. Pray for GS Iga Zalisz and her staff team.

Czech Republic Pray for the Czech Bible Society as they work across denominations supplying Bibles and biblical resources. Pray for good relationships with local churches as they partner to spread God's Word. Pray for Christians here to support the spreading of God's Kingdom. Pray for GS Pavel Novak and the staff team here.

Slovakia Pray for the Slovak Bible Society working to enable the deaf community to encounter God's Word by translating the Bible into sign language. Pray for their relationships with local churches, asking God to strengthen their support in this shared mission. Pray for GS Štefan Ševčík and the staff team here.

SEPTEMBER 20-26**Denmark**

Pray for the Danish Bible Society as they find ways to communicate God's love to people of different generation. Pray for their fundraising work, supporting other Bible Societies around the world. Pray as they work side by side with local churches and support their efforts. Pray for GS Johannes Baun and the staff team here.

Sweden

Pray for the Swedish Bible Society as they continue to work on the new Swedish translation of the New Testament. Pray for their fundraising work, supporting other Bible Societies around the world. Pray for their relationships with churches and individuals. Pray for GS Anders Göranson and the staff team here.

Finland Pray for the Finnish Bible Society and their ongoing work supporting literacy programmes for women in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi and Namibia. Praise God for the generosity of their supporters, allowing them to advise translation projects around the world. Pray for GS Rev Dr Petri Merenlahti and his staff team

SEPTEMBER 27 – OCTOBER 3**Dominican Republic**

Pray for the Dominican Republic Bible Society and their "Breaking Barriers" project helping to share the Bible with deaf people. Pray for their 'Bibles instead of Weapons' project. Praise God for the 'Bible in Every Bookbag' programme, supplying schoolchildren with Bibles. Pray for GS Carmen Checo De Acosta and the staff team here.

East Caribbean Pray for the Bible Society in the East Caribbean as they serve twelve island-states with diverse populations by reaching out with God's Word. Pray for innovative ways to help young people engage with the Bible. Pray for strong connections with local churches of various Christian denominations. Pray for the staff team, volunteers and board members.

Puerto Rico

Pray for the Bible Society of Puerto Rico as they continue spreading the Bible in written and digital formats, helping more people to gain access to it. Pray for their relationships with churches and individuals across the country. Pray for GS Rev Heriberto Martinez-Rivera and the staff team here.

Thank You Campbell

At the beginning of April we said thank you and goodbye to Campbell Moore as he retired after serving Bible Society Northern Ireland for over 23 years. We are so grateful for his commitment to the mission, and we pray God's richest blessings for him in this new season.



How do you sum up 23 years in just a few words? In some ways, very simply: I cannot think of anything I'd rather have done. It has not been "work" at Bible Society Northern Ireland, rather a calling. I didn't clock in and out. I looked forward to Monday mornings.

I have been inspired by many people over the years. Supporters who regularly called into the office with a gift or telephoned to encourage us. People who wanted to share God's Word with others. There are many individuals who do not realise how thankful the staff are for their regular prayerful and financial support, and I was amazed by the generosity of some churches.

I've met many people, individually and in churches, who live out God's

Word. The Bible is relevant today but only if we read it and live it out, not just in our heads but in our hearts and everyday lives. We are privileged to have access to the Bible in our own language – do we realise and appreciate that, or do we simply take it for granted?

I was told some few weeks ago that BSNI has provided funds to provide approximately 1,400,000 Bibles during the last 23 years – what an impact our supporters have achieved!

I will miss our staff devotions on a Monday morning when we read a passage and prayed around our United Bible Societies' Fellowship. (Apologies to anyone who tried telephoning us at that time!). Those were special times when we slowed down and learned to simply read and think on God's Word.

I was amazed at how God provided for our work every year through generous supporters: every gift received, regardless of amount, was appreciated. Whether by cheque or bank transfer, we were encouraged in our work. In the words of a multinational business, "Every Little Helps"!

We were blessed to support Bible work here at home and all around the world and that work is ongoing – please continue to support it.

How do I feel about retiring? My time has been wonderful. I cannot think of anything I'd rather have done for 23 years. I will miss the people: supporters, staff and Board. Now is the right time to go and serve in the next phase. God will direct and lead as Psalm 119 verse 105 says: "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path". (NIV).



United Bible Societies at



Celebrating the Fellowship



**United Bible
Societies**

The Beginning

United Bible Societies (UBS) was established in 1946, in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War, as an international fellowship bringing together Bible Societies to coordinate Scripture distribution on a global scale.

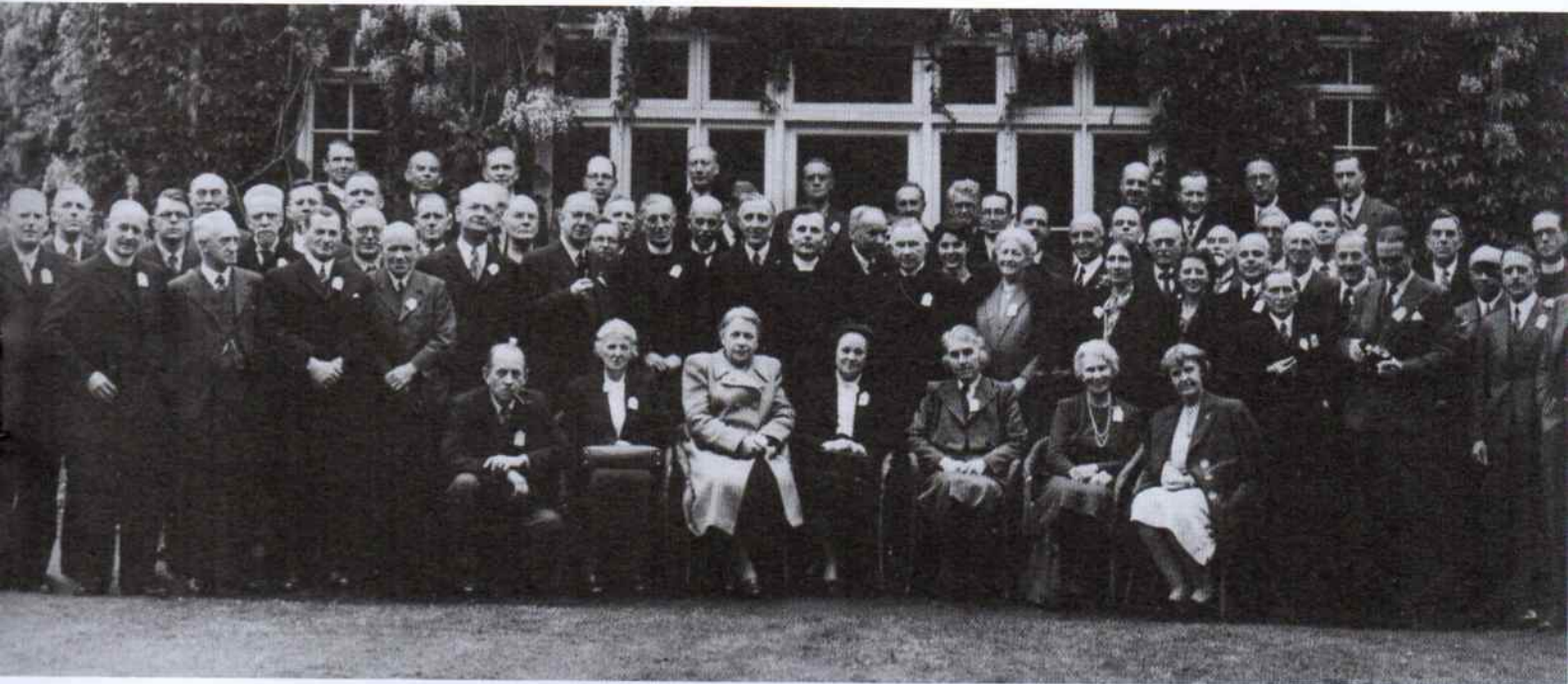
In May 1946, representatives from 13 countries gathered at the Elfinward Conference Centre, south of London, to formalise a new alliance. Among them was Eivind Berggrav, Bishop of Norway, who had been imprisoned by the Nazis for his faith and spoke movingly of the Bible as a source of hope in times of suffering. Delegates shared powerful testimonies of wartime Bible work: Scriptures being distributed in secret, presses

destroyed, funds lost, and faith sustained despite persecution.

The conference resolved to establish United Bible Societies as an interconfessional fellowship, dedicated to fulfilling the Great Commission by making the Bible available to all nations, peoples, and languages.

Expansion & Growth

In the decades that followed, Bible translation became central to UBS's mission. From the late 1940s through the 1950s, UBS expanded rapidly, establishing regional centres and supporting the formation of new Bible Societies, particularly in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, as decolonisation reshaped the global Church.



Present Times

By 2025, UBS has grown into a fellowship of 156 independent Bible Societies serving over 240 countries and territories, demonstrating sustained expansion through collaborative funding and shared expertise.

Alongside translation, UBS increasingly emphasised Bible engagement, helping people not only receive Scripture, but

understand and use it within their cultural and spiritual contexts.

Today, UBS continues to adapt to a changing world, embracing digital technologies, innovative formats such as audio and Braille, and new approaches to Bible ministry, while remaining anchored in its founding conviction: that *everyone, everywhere*, should have access to the Bible in a language they understand.



Dirk Gevers Secretary General

“For 80 years, United Bible Societies has been shaped by faith, unity, and fellowship expressed through shared service. Building on a legacy of over 220 years of Bible Society ministry, our mission is lived out in communities around the world, locally rooted and globally connected. Across cultures and generations, we have together translated, published and distributed the Bible, and helped people to engage with God’s Living Word. As we mark this anniversary, we give thanks for the people, partnerships, and projects that have shaped our common ministry, and we renew our commitment to serve all people and all churches in God’s world as one Fellowship.”



Dirk Gevers (left)

In Northern Ireland

Here in Northern Ireland, we have the privilege of standing alongside more than 150 Bible Societies worldwide. We are grateful to be a part of a fellowship that shares and works together, enabling Scripture to be translated, distributed and engaged with in every context. Belonging to this global family reminds us that Bible mission is never done in isolation, but together – strengthened by partnership, prayer and a shared commitment to making God’s Word accessible to all.

So today we give thanks to God for 80 years of the United Bible Societies, and as we continue to serve the Church here and overseas, we pray that He will continue to guide and bless this work.

A Need for Bibles Now!



Right now, the Church in Cuba stands at a crossroads. A spiritual revival is sweeping across the island - hearts are opening, faith is growing, and lives are being transformed. But there's one urgent problem: there aren't enough Bibles to meet the demand.

Imagine discovering the hope and truth of God's Word for the very first time - only to find there's no



Bible available for you to read. That's the heartbreaking reality for countless believers in Cuba today.

A Cry for Hope

Luz Marina, a devoted leader in Cuba's church community, recently received a shipment of Bibles through the Bible Society. Holding them tightly, her eyes shone with joy as cried out, "I know exactly where I am going today!" She knew who would receive the first Bible - a young girl in her congregation whose family is eager to know Christ.

Luz has seen firsthand the power of Scripture: *"Children in our church come from difficult backgrounds. But when they hear the Bible stories, they are changed."* For these children, God's Word is a light in the darkness - a source of hope and healing.

The need is vast - and it is urgent.



Families, children, and entire congregations are waiting. Without a Bible, the spiritual growth of these believers is stunted.

Just imagine playing your part in their transformation by ensuring that every one of them has access to the Scriptures.

Currently Bibles cannot be printed in Cuba and can only be imported via the Cuban Bible Society which is why **your support is crucial.**



○ Alain Montano, General Secretary (right)

Life-Changing Impact

Every Bible sent to Cuba carries the hope of a new beginning. For many, this is the first Bible they have ever held in their hands - a long-awaited treasure. As Alain Montano, the General Secretary of the Bible Society in Cuba, shares: *"In Cuba, people ask for the Bible even in the streets and restaurants. They are longing for something that will bring hope into their lives."*

Take Daili Govas Matos, who as a child dreamed of the Bible. Today, as a church leader in Havana, she is part of spreading the Word of God to those around her. *"I understand now why I had those dreams as a child. God is calling me to be part of spreading His Word in my neighbourhood,"* she says with a glowing heart. Daili's dream is now a reality - and with your help, more dreams can be fulfilled.

○ Daili Govas Matos (right)



The situation in Cuba is dire. Inflation, emigration, and poverty are tearing apart families. But in the midst of these struggles, **the Church is growing**, and people are searching for meaning. They are turning to the Church for hope, but **the Church needs Bibles** - and they need them now. The Bible is already making a difference. Families across Cuba are receiving vital packages that include Bibles for adults, children, and even large print editions for the elderly. Yet, the need is still far greater than the supply. Each Bible is a beacon of light to a family in crisis. **Can you help?**

You can provide a Bible to a family in Cuba - a Bible that will be cherished and passed along for generations. Every Bible you provide will reach the hands of someone whose life can be changed forever. Will you be a part of this urgent mission?

Never before has Cuba faced such hardship - but never before has the Church had such an opportunity to share the Bible. **With your support, we can ensure that the light of Christ shines brightly across the island.**

Thank you for your compassion and your commitment to sharing the Bible.

PRAY WITH US

- Pray for those with empty hands, waiting for their own Bible to cherish for years to come.
- Pray for the Bible Society as they strive to meet the demand for Bibles, including for their financial support.
- Pray that those who have received a Bible would be blessed, and that they would continue to share the Bible with those in their community.

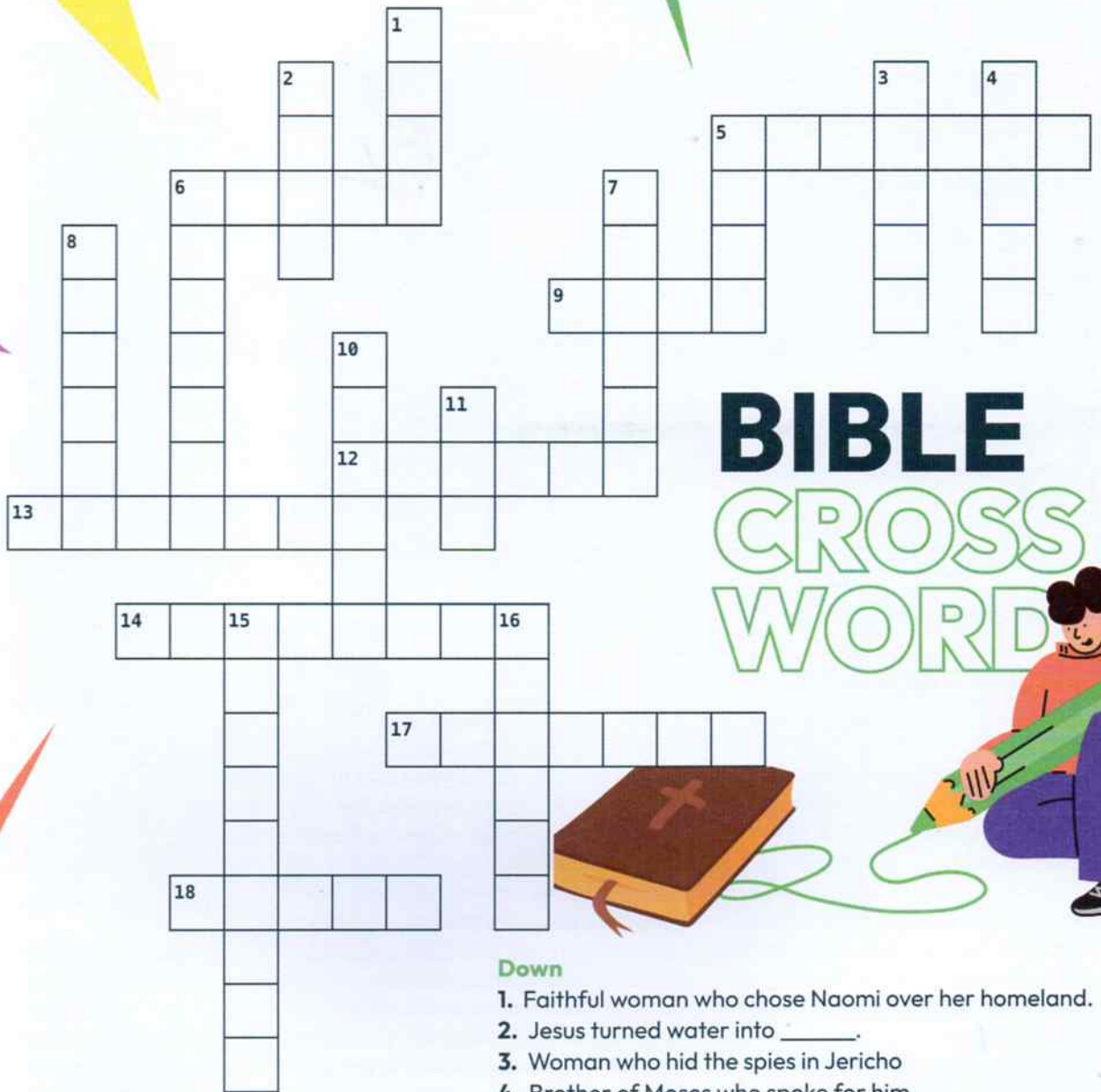
DONATE

Your support today will help

- **£35** could provide 7 people with the joy of reading their own Bible.
- **£50** could provide 10 Bibles for a Bible study group.
- **£125** could supply a whole Sunday school class with 25 children's Bibles.
- **£480** could help supply Bibles for a whole congregation.

If you would like to donate to this project, simply fill out and return the form included with this magazine or visit our website: www.biblesocietyni.co.uk/give. Alternatively, you can scan the QR code with your smartphone.





BIBLE CROSS WORD



Across

5. The father of many nations
6. Man swallowed by a great fish.
9. Apostle who wrote many New Testament letters.
12. Disciple known as 'the doubter.'
13. Woman who was a judge in Israel
14. The town where Jesus grew up.
17. Book that tells the story of creation.
18. The king anointed while still a shepherds.

Down

1. Faithful woman who chose Naomi over her homeland.
2. Jesus turned water into _____.
3. Woman who hid the spies in Jericho
4. Brother of Moses who spoke for him.
5. Brother of Cain
6. The Good Samaritan helped a man on this road.
7. Book containing many songs and prayers.
8. Roman governor who judged Jesus.
10. Woman who became queen to save her people.
11. A fruit of the Spirit.
15. The tax collector who climbed a tree to see Jesus.
16. The mother of Samuel, who prayed for a child.

Stay Connected

If you would like to hear more from Bible Society Northern Ireland, you can follow us on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and LinkedIn

@biblesocietyni



Join our email list to receive our newsletter. Sign up on our website

biblesocietyni.co.uk

