

LATEST NEWS # 462, November 30, 2007

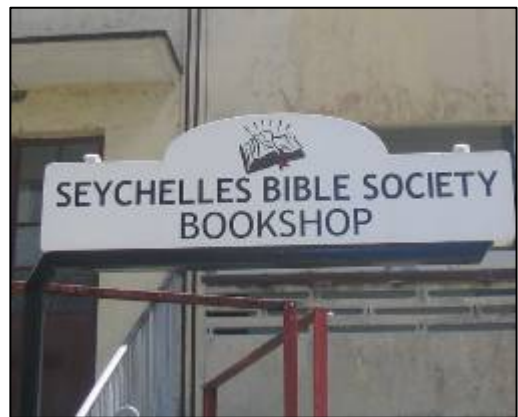
The following news concerns Seychelles.

Registered users of the UBS Intranet can find more news about Bible Societies' work under *Latest News* in the Communications section

New bookshop for Seychelles Bible Society

SEYCHELLES — “We have come to an impasse and we do not know where to knock any more. Our little Bible shop, which was opened with joy and great hope and is doing so well, finds itself soon to be out of premises.”

This was how Flavie Jackson, Board Chairperson of the Seychelles Bible Society, began a letter sent out by email in August. Mrs Jackson went on to explain that the building in which the Bible shop was housed was to be torn down and that the owner had asked them to move out immediately.



This was a real blow to the Society because the recently-opened Bible shop had marked a turning point in Bible work in Seychelles (see World Report 413/14). Scriptures, which had been in extremely short supply, were now readily available in the shop, and it was attracting a steady stream of customers. The income from the Bible shop was helping to fund the translation of the Seselwa Old Testament and the administration of the Society.



“We are praying and knocking on various doors for a replacement but so far with no result,” continued Mrs Jackson. “We are desperate! ...Pray with us and for us: that the Lord will provide us with suitable premises for our Bible shop.”

Some weeks later, the Society had two separate offers for new premises – one from the Roman Catholic mission and the other from the government.

“We can say that the Lord has answered our prayers beyond our expectations!” wrote Margaret Maillet, the Society’s Executive Secretary, who explained that the Society had decided to accept the government’s offer.

“We have been guaranteed a set of rooms in one of their buildings in the town centre. It is very conveniently located right near our office, and the rooms are fairly large. They are being renovated at the moment but we hope to be fully installed by January 2008.

“Unfortunately we will miss the Christmas sales. However, a government organisation which assists small businesses has reserved us a stall at their Christmas Trade Fair, which will help. We will also sell Bibles and other Scripture books at the annual Gospel music concert, which we organise together with the churches. People will also be able to buy Scriptures at our offices, although we have very limited space.”

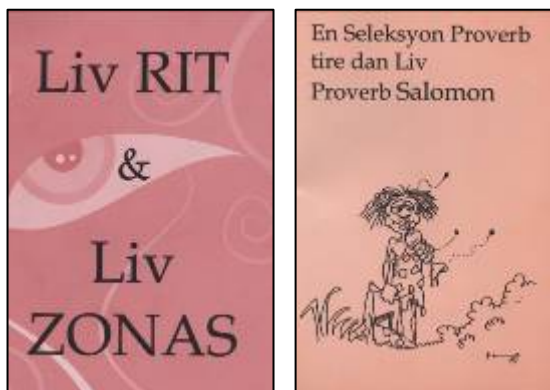
The Society anticipates that its three new Scripture publications in Kreol Seselwa – the story of Noah, the stories of Ruth and Jonah published in one book, and a selection of Proverbs presented in comic format with text in Kreol Seselwa, English and French – will be popular gifts this Christmas.

The books were launched at the end of October at the annual Creole Festival, which is the largest cultural event in Seychelles, attracting thousands of people from across the country and from other Creole-speaking nations. (See box below for further information about the launch of the new publications.)

The books are the latest output from the Kreol Seselwa Old Testament translation project (project number 89700), which continues to make steady progress since the appointment of a full-time translator, James Sabadin (see World Report 413/12). Previously, the translators, who were provided by their respective Churches, were only able to work part-time on the translation due to church commitments.

With Mr Sabadin now able to fully commit to the translation work as he is receiving a salary – half paid for by UBS and the other half by the Seventh-day Adventist Church – it is anticipated that the project will be completed in 2012.

“The Bible Society is so grateful for this support from the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and for all the Churches which have provided translators for this project,” said Mrs Jackson. “Without this help, the project would have been delayed if not altogether cancelled.”



The Bible Society is also excited about a new customer – a five star hotel on the largest island of Mahe. The hotel attracts many thousands of tourists who come to enjoy the wide white beaches and scenic beauty that Seychelles is famous for.

“This hotel has been buying copies of the Good News Bible from us to place in each room. Isn’t that exciting!” said Mrs Maillet.



New Kreol Seselwa Scripture publications launched

By Margaret Maillet, Executive Secretary of the Seychelles Bible Society

The ongoing work to translate the Bible into Kreol Seselwa is continuing to bear fruit: last month the Seychelles Bible Society launched three new Scripture publications during the annual Creole Festival – the country’s most important cultural event.

En Seleksyon Proverb tire dan Liv Proverb Salomon contains a selection of Proverbs in English, French and Kreol Seselwa with cartoon illustrations. *Noe ek son gro bato* is a 10-page illustrated booklet about Noah that is designed for children, while *Liv Rit & Liv Zonas* simply contains the text of Ruth and Jonah published in a single booklet.



The Scriptures were presented by Bible Society Chairperson Flavie Jackson, who thanked the authors, illustrators, translators, reviewers and churches who had helped produce the new publications. She also gave thanks to God for the progress of the Kreol Seselwa translation project.

The ceremony ended with illustrators Maryse Athanase and Peter Lalande, and Mrs Jackson signing copies of the new publications.



Photographs:

SEY06DJ-6: The sign outside the bookshop of the Seychelles Bible Society, which was opened in 2006. The bookshop has now had to relocate. (United Bible Societies/Krijn van der Jagt)

SEY06DJ-5: Flavie Jackson, Board Chairperson of the Seychelles Bible Society. (United Bible Societies/Krijn van der Jagt)

SEY06DJ-9: James Sabadin, Coordinator of the Kreol Seselwa Old Testament translation project. Seychelles. (United Bible Societies/Krijn van der Jagt)



SEY07DJ-3: Seychelles is a major holiday destination and is famous for its scenic beauty. (United Bible Societies/ Evariste Munyabarambe)

SEY07DJ-8: Seychelles Bible Society Board Chairperson Flavie Jackson presents Noe ek son gro bato (an illustrated children's booklet about Noah) at a launch event on October 24, 2007. It was launched along with two other new publications in Kreol Seselwa. Victoria, Seychelles. (Seychelles Nation)

SEY07DJ-9: From left to right: Seychelles Bible Society Chairperson Flavie Jackson and illustrators Maryse Athanase and Peter Lalande sign copies of the three new Scripture publications launched at the Creole Festival on October 24, 2007. Victoria, Seychelles. (Seychelles Nation)

For further information please contact comms@ubs-wsc.org

