

BIBLES ATWORK



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God's Word: in Australia
and overseas**

**Celebrating the KJV
nationwide**

Making the Bible available in a language and format
each person can understand, engage with and afford



Bible Society
Making the Bible heard since 1817

WORD FROM THE CEO, BIBLE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

DEAR FRIENDS,

I've now been leading Bible Society Australia for around six months, and can report that we are well on the way to operating as a completely national organisation. Staff, board and members have all been wonderful in their support of our transition. Thank you!

When I began to travel around the country meeting Bible Society people, I took with me the Bible that my parents (James and Dian Clarke) gave me when I was seven years old. It was a Children's Living Bible and, although I've moved on to other versions since then, I will always remember it as a great introduction to the Word of God.

I think the pictures were just as important as the words. Jesus as the Good Shepherd on the cover stuck with me - He's caring and kind, but He can fight off beasts in the desert, too. That was the Jesus I got to know.

I decided I would take this Bible around with me to remind us all what a long-term

work it is that we do. We give people access to God's Word in a way that can affect the whole course of their lives. It also reminds me that it is the work of other people that brings the Bible into a life - in my case, my parents, followed by a string of Sunday School teachers, youth group leaders, preachers and Bible-loving friends.

In this issue of Bibles At Work, we focus on work that reaches children - both at home in Australia through our schools projects, and overseas through the literacy for children work in India. We also fill you in on many of our other major 2011 activities, including an exciting touring exhibition celebrating the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible - 'The Book that Changed the World'.

My first Bible came to me as a gift, and that seems to me the most appropriate way to receive the Scriptures. Thank you for making it possible to offer the precious gift of God's Word to so many other people.



Photograph: Katherina Bilko

Greg with the Bible he received as a child

Greg Clarke

Dr Greg Clarke
CEO, Bible Society Australia

UPDATES



10,000 children are in Irene's care

Resources to get the Word out

"We need a Bible for each child," said Aussie Grandma Irene Gleeson, sharing about her life-changing work with Ugandan kids during a visit to Australia in May.

Help us reach our goal to send each child a 'Big Rescue' Bible. We've uploaded free resources online at www.biblesociety.nsw.com.au/donate/uganda to help get your school or church group involved, or for you to sponsor a Bible yourself.

Thanks from within prison walls

Following a Bible Society visit to South African prisons early this year, inmate Ayoob Toffie wrote to express his gratitude to supporters: "Whatever you are sowing in the Kingdom of God might leave your hand but it will never leave your life, simply because the principle of sowing and reaping is universal... One day your rewards will be so much that Heaven will not be able to contain the blessings."

PLEASE PRAY

Pray for wisdom and smooth transitions as the Bible Society continues on the road to nationalisation.

Continue to pray for the many communities impacted by natural disasters in Australia and around the world.

Pray that many more young people in Australia and worldwide will know and love God as they are presented with His Word.

ABOUT US

Bible Society Australia is a non-profit interdenominational organisation. It is a member of the United Bible Societies, a worldwide fellowship of 145 organisations working in more than 200 countries.

Bible Society Australia
Postal Address:
GPO BOX 9874 SYDNEY
Office: 5 Byfield Street
MACQUARIE PARK NSW 2113
Phone: (02) 9888 6588
Fax: (02) 9888 7820

Donor Assistance Line: 1300 552 537

Bible Society Bookshop:
Ground Floor
213 Clarence Street
SYDNEY, NSW 2000

Bookshop Direct Line:
(02) 9262 6355
Fax: (02) 9262 3611

Websites:
www.biblesociety.com.au
www.jesusallaboutlife.com.au
www.bibleshop.com.au
www.biblesocietyyouth.org
www.towardsthegoal.com.au

Feedback:
editor@bible.org.au

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Please note: If programs are over-subscribed, funds will go to another Bible Society project.

BIBLES AT WORK IN AUSTRALIA



Bible stories come alive in the Big Rescue



Amy Jobson would love every child in Scripture classes to have a Bible

DOOR WIDE OPEN FOR AUSSIE KIDS TO READ AND KNOW GOD'S WORD

Special Religious Education, or 'Scripture' as most of us know it, reaches hundreds of thousands of children in schools across NSW each year.

Scripture teachers generously give their time to teach the Bible to children. The Bible Society sees Scripture as incredibly valuable for kids - so valuable that last year we provided 88,000 Bibles for Scripture teachers to give to their classes.

We are committed to providing Bibles for Scripture again this year and we need your help. Our 'Scripture in Schools' Winter Appeal is underway, and every donation counts.

Scripture teacher Penny Stanbury has seen first hand the amazing impact of Bibles provided by generous Bible Society donors in 2010.

"The children were excited to receive their own Bible, and it was more thrilling because one of my classes is a group of twenty children who have never gone to church or had their own Bible. When I told them this is God's true words in a book that was for them, it was great to see eyes light up."

"It has been wonderful to be able to give God's Word out to over 300 children. We used The Big Rescue Bible in SRE classes and at the end of the year the children took them home. I have had a few letters from parents who were not church goers or Christians but very much appreciated this gift of a Bible that their children had received," says Penny.

"We need to keep praying that these young children will keep learning of the love of Jesus through SRE and their Big Rescue Bibles. I thank God for the partnership we have with the Bible Society and the doors they have opened for many children to come to know Christ."

Every month, the Bible Society hears from Scripture teachers asking for Bibles for their classes. If you know a Scripture teacher, encourage them to contact the Bible Society to find out more.

Help us make the most of the incredible opportunity Scripture in schools provides to reach Aussie kids with God's Word. Your gift will provide more Bibles for children attending school Scripture classes.

Please send your tax-deductible donation with the coupon on the back page, phone our donor line on **1300 552 537** or donate online at www.biblesociety.nsw.com.au

VERSE FOR JUNE

We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders He has done. (Psalm 78:4b)



NEWS FROM CHINA: CHILDREN RECEIVING AND READING BIBLES

Can you remember the fascination of reading the Bible for the very first time and how keen you were to share what you discovered with someone else? You are allowing children right across China to experience this amazing adventure! 10,000 Big Picture Story Bibles have now been placed in the hands of children attending Sunday Schools and those living in orphanages.

“The first story, when God made the universe, was so wonderful!” said one young girl. “The second story was ‘A Very Sad Day’. I learned that when Adam and Eve sinned, we all became sinners. Losing my temper, not listening to what my parents say, and getting angry – those are all sins. Reading further, I cheered up because of the New Testament second story, ‘God’s Promised One is Born’. Jesus saved us from our sins. Now I have the hope of eternal life! From now on I will diligently study this, my favourite book...”

Help the Bible Society provide many more Big Picture Story Bibles to disadvantaged children and orphans. Email info@biblesociety NSW.com.au, phone our donor line on **1300 552 537** or donate online at www.biblesociety NSW.com.au

UBS ANNUAL DAY OF PRAYER

The United Bible Societies have a tradition of praying together every year, and this was recently celebrated by Bible Society Australia on 11 May at Kirkplace Presbyterian Church, Kogarah.

Staff and friends of the Bible Society came together to hear about the nationalisation of the Bible Society and the impact of our projects, to pray for these projects and our many partners around the world, and share fellowship over a meal.

Guest speaker Irene Gleeson – an Aussie grandmother who founded Childcare Kitgum Servants (CKS) in northern Uganda – amazed us all with her stories of the 10,000 children at the CKS schools.



Staff from 145 nations join in prayer



Happiness is a Bible to call your own

WORD IN ACTION IN SOUTH AFRICA

A Bible Society team saw World Hope Ministries in action and helped distribute some of the 3,300 Bibles and 10,000 Bible Memory Verse Calendars provided by Australian donors on a recent visit to South Africa.

“It was inspiring to see what the WHM team is doing in the schools to try and stop the flow of young people at risk into the prison system,” says the Bible Society’s Children’s Worker Rick George.

“One student excitedly shared that he’d been provoked by a classmate and was ready to punch his lights out until he remembered what he’d read in his Big Rescue Bible about God wanting us to love one another. This stopped the fight and the word spread through the class, causing an appreciation of God’s Word.”

A humour-filled presentation with a powerful Gospel message was presented at each school. Children were encouraged to learn this year’s memory verses from the Bible Memory Verse Calendar they were given. Students who’d learned ten or more verses from last year were invited to the front of the assembly to recite some before being rewarded with a Big Rescue Bible. Many enthusiastically recited far more than ten!

WHAT’S ON

JUNE

- Till 28 June The Book that Changed the World Exhibition, Canberra
- 19 June Hymnfest Maitland
- 24 June Bible Society Australia (BSA) National Thanksgiving event, Brisbane
- 25 June BSA National Staff meeting, Brisbane

JULY

- 1 Jul–28 Aug The Book that Changed the World Exhibition, Sydney
- 30–31 Jul Mulga Bill Bicycle Festival Weekend Ride

AUGUST

- 14 Aug Jesus. All About Life/City2Surf run
- 14 Aug Central Coast Hymnfest
- 20 Aug–3 Sep Bike For Bibles ride, Adelaide to Sydney

For venues and further details please contact the office on **(02) 9888 6588** or email info@biblesociety NSW.com.au



BFB rides focus on friendship and fundraising

UPDATE



Photograph: Katherina Bilko



Bright new caps for this year’s runners

CITY2SURF – ON YOUR MARKS, GET SET...!

Join the team and raise money for Scriptures in Schools 2011 in one of Sydney’s favourite sporting events – the annual Sun-Herald City2Surf on Sunday, August 14.

Participants in last year’s City2Surf raised enough sponsorship to help get 70,000 Big Rescue Bibles and 18,000 Youth Bibles into schools across NSW and the ACT.

Allan Peacock raised over \$4000 – this despite bypass surgery 10 years ago and developing a sciatic nerve problem in the lead up to the August fun run!

So get your joggers on, start preparing yourself for the race ahead, and think about inviting others to join you and asking people to sponsor you. Register to enter at www.city2surf.com.au, and then sign up to fundraise for the Bible Society at www.towardsthegoal.com.au

This year, participants will get a blue **Jesus. All About Life** cap to wear. Returning team members are invited to wear the red JAAL t-shirts they received last year.

For more information please contact Gayle Baikie on **(02) 9870 5636** or gbaikie@biblesociety NSW.com.au

VERSE FOR JULY

“Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.” (Psalm 8:2)

AROUND THE WORLD

BIBLICAL VALUES TO HELP REBUILD EGYPT

The Bible Society is using cutting edge media to challenge Egyptians to make Biblical values the foundation for rebuilding their nation. Front page advertisements in Egypt's four major newspapers have already made an impact, and there are plans for YouTube video clips and social media campaigns. 300,000 Scripture portions centred on Nehemiah are also being distributed. *"Nehemiah's message is so appropriate: he rebuilt his city, re-ignited his people's faith in God and called them to a radical lifestyle," says General Secretary Ramez Atallah.*

BIBLES AND RELIEF FOR EARTHQUAKE ZONE IN JAPAN

The Japan Bible Society is working through large churches in areas devastated by the massive earthquake and tsunami to distribute Bibles and relief aid provided by generous donors. "The flood of emails received from our colleagues all over the world has encouraged us," said General Secretary, Rev Makoto Watabe. *"We are also fundraising locally to provide 5,000 picture Bibles and 5,000 Manga Bibles for children, and 10,000 Bibles for adults, along with relief aid for church recovery and rebuilding."*



Bibles and relief aid delivered to the Miyagi Prefecture

SCRIPTURES FOR WORKERS FLEEING UNREST IN LIBYA

A Bible Society emergency project is reaching out with God's Word to migrant workers fleeing the recent turmoil in Libya. Thousands of Egyptian, North African and Bangladeshi workers are streaming across Libya's borders into neighbouring countries, where they are now stranded without the means to move on. *"We must seize this window of opportunity to distribute Scriptures to these people,"* said the Bible Society's Migrants Ministry Coordinator.

UPDATE ON CHRISTCHURCH EARTHQUAKE

The Bible Society's first priority has been rescue, relief and providing life's essentials. Staff worked 12-hour shifts alongside the Salvation Army and other teams, offering support and ascertaining needs. Now, people need counselling, help and hope from God's Word. Hundreds of Bibles and New Testaments are being distributed by churches and chaplaincy services, along with 12,000 copies of a 30-day devotional booklet written especially for survivors of sudden traumatic events – *Where Will I Find Help?* As rebuilding commences, the focus will be replacing the thousands of Bibles lost when churches were destroyed or damaged.

KING JAMES BIBLE CELEBRATIONS

THE BOOK THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

Bible Society Australia's historic Bibles exhibition highlighting the 400th Anniversary of the KJV – *The Book that Changed the World* – was launched on April 1 at Barr-Smith Library, Adelaide University.

10 year old Johana was one visitor: *"I had expected to see lots and lots of Bibles, but I also saw other more interesting things, and I loved the interesting facts I saw next to the Bibles. I think people should come to one of these exhibitions because it has lots of information about the Bible and how it changed history."*

Historian Dr John Harris reminded people that *"The King James Bible changed the way people understood their relationship to God. It changed the way they lived their lives and it changed the way they faced death."*

Val Petering, a long time Bible Society supporter, loved John Harris' explanation of the King James Bible's relevance for 1611, and for all time. She particularly appreciated experiencing "so many interesting and well used Bibles, which have had such a great influence in the founding and development of countries such as Australia."

The exhibition moved to Parliament House, Canberra, in May and will be there till the 28th of June. In July it moves to The Village Church, Annandale, Sydney, and then to Manly in August.

Visitors at the Adelaide exhibition take a closer look



Call **1300 139 179** to book a Guided Tour of the Exhibition in any of the locations. For more information on the exhibition, visit www.kjv11.com.au.

There are many ways to celebrate an anniversary, and if you have ideas to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the King James Version in your local area, we would like to encourage you. If you are interested in resources to help you with your celebration of the Bible, please contact Karen White on **02 9870 5641** or karen.white@bible.org.au

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INDIA LITERACY PROJECT: BREAKING THE POVERTY CYCLE WITH GOD'S WORD

When you were little, what did you dream of becoming when you grew up? In the slums of India it's hard for a child to see beyond just today, because when you're desperately poor, your focus is survival. The future warrants barely a thought when what you're concerned about is your next meal.

Did you know that more than one third of India's next generation lives in grinding poverty like this? Without access to education, a relentless cycle of poverty threatens to rob these kids of any hope for a more positive future.

But the Bible Society has been partnering with REAP International for four years now, and through this partnership, the lives of both children and their families are being changed. Over 12,000 children have been educated in English using a Bible-based literacy program, providing them with skills for a better future, and more importantly, an understanding of God's Word.

Nagaraju works as a Literacy Program volunteer teacher in his village. Nagaraju recently shared: *"It's my first month and I'm starting to know the students. This program is really a good program for the poor children, where they can learn not only English but also get help in doing their daily homework."*

Fauddin, a Grade 5 student, agrees: *"My parents are daily labourers. Before joining the Literacy programme, I was a school dropout. My mother used to beat me a lot because I went around with other boys and made trouble in the village. But, after joining the Literacy programme centre in our village,*



Literacy offers hope and a future

I slowly developed interest in studying and joined my regular school. Now I am happy that I am able to learn English and get help in my regular studies."

You can offer many more children like Fauddin an escape from the poverty cycle. Your gift will provide new opportunities for education and employment, and open the way to a relationship with Jesus for India's next generation.

Please send your tax-deductible donation with the coupon on the left, phone our donor line on **1300 552 537**, or donate online at www.biblesocietynsw.com.au

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But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Luke 18: 16)

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