

# Bibles@work

number 20

Bible Society NSW

W I N T E R 2 0 0 7



- Young lives turning to Jesus
- Project Rwanda, banishing hate
- Learning and literacy in Cambodia

**Bible Society**  
NSW

*Making the Bible heard since 1817*



*Bible Society NSW CEO, Daniel Willis.*

**Dear Partner in the Gospel Ministry of Bible Society,**

I've just come from our latest Annual General Meeting, a meeting at which we presented our report card for the past 18 months. Apart from the financial reports and the election of our General Committee we heard from Mark Brown, our Youth Coordinator, of the amazing distribution of backpacks along the Thai/Burma border. What a privilege to hear how Bible Society, through the provision of Bibles, is changing the eternity of children living in refugee camps and jungle villages. This was the Children's Project for 2006 and you'll read about it on page 4 of Bibles@work.

2007's project is bringing hope to children in Rwanda. It's working in 80 schools, training 400 teachers, and impacting 102,000 children – all of whom have been affected by the 1994 genocide. The project will use stories of reconciliation from the Scriptures to help these young people to be reconciled to the very people who were involved in killing family members.

Back home, on 5th May this year the Kriol Bible, the first full Bible for Australia's indigenous people, was released at the Katherine Convention. This was an historic moment, and 27 years in the making. Praise be to our God and Father who has sustained his people involved in this work. Please pray for the use of this Bible amongst Kriol speakers.

If you would like more information on any of the stories in this edition, a copy of the Annual Report or a free copy of our Programs DVD, please visit our website or ring the office with your request.

Thank you for your continued support in this work that changes lives for eternity. ■

*Daniel Willis*  
**Daniel Willis**  
 CEO, Bible Society NSW

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*Cover: Children praying to accept Jesus, at a village on the Thai Burma border, after one of our team had shared the gospel. See our report on page 4.*

## Indigenous impact

Bible Society is underpinning a major strategic gospel work in 2007 that is profoundly impacting indigenous Australia. It's providing support to the Wontulp-Bi-Buya Bible college in Cairns, training aboriginal and Torres Strait islander students for ministry within their own communities, in prisons, schools and hospitals.

Students come from all over Queensland, but predominantly Far North Queensland. They range in age from 18-70. Courses cover the full range of Bible school subjects, as well as ministry skills.

According to Father Barry Paterson, who

teaches theology at Wontulp – 'Our job is to help them to study the Bible more deeply, ensuring they're well equipped to be leaders and Bible teachers for their own people.'

**Will you join us in our support for this vital indigenous ministry? It's already making a real difference in the spread of the gospel to many needy communities.**

**Please send us your tax deductible donation with the coupon on the back page of the magazine, phone our donor line 1300 552 537, or donate online using your credit card at [www.biblesocietynsw.com.au](http://www.biblesocietynsw.com.au) ■**



*Father Barry Paterson with a student at the Wontulp-Bi-Buya college in Cairns*

## Scripture in song

In Azerbaijan, they love their music, poetry and dance. So ‘The Book Company’, which is responsible for Bible distribution in Azerbaijan, puts on four concerts a year in cities, towns and refugee camps.

Talented musicians and singers present the Scriptures in song to large crowds. At Easter, they had 1,000 people turn up to a concert in a hall in the town of Baku. Gulshan Huseynova, the Director of ‘The Book Company’ says – ‘There are many people who have come to God through those songs.’ ■

*Sarah, 17, sings from the book of Psalms at a Christian concert held at a home for disabled children in the town of Seki, Azerbaijan*



## Another amazing year

Bible Society Scripture translation has achieved a significant milestone. According to the latest UBS ‘Scripture language report’, at least one complete book of the Bible has been translated in 2,426 languages.

Over the past year, there have been Scripture translations in

23 new languages and dialects, three entire new Bibles, and 31 new New Testaments.

UBS is currently involved in 500 translation projects worldwide and spends more than 15 million dollars each year on translation. Be encouraged! ■

## Reaching Egypt’s next generation



*Children with Scriptures supplied by the Bible Society of Egypt, as part of its schools distribution project*

More than 200,000 copies of the Scriptures have been given to children from impoverished nominally Christian homes in Egypt. 117,000 New Testaments in a comic format have been distributed free to 12-13 year olds and 98,000 hardback Children’s Bibles have been given to nine and 10 year olds.

One 12 year old boy who’d left school returned to get a free Bible. His classmates teased and laughed at him. However the driver delivering the Bibles said the boy could get a Bible if he promised to return to school. He did and rang to thank the Bible Society later in the year to say he was progressing to the next grade! ■

# Sharing Jesus on the Thai-Burma border

Bible Society has taken a team of 32 young people for an unforgettable two week mission to children in refugee camps on the Thai-Burma border. The team, in partnership with Global Aid Network, ran medical clinics, kid's ministry and distributed Bibles and Bible backpacks to school age children.

The backpacks are practical love in action – containing soap, towels, pens, modelling clay and exercise books, as well as a Bible. It's everything a

*Mark Brown handing out one of the first backpacks to a student at a refugee school in Thailand*

*One of the many children from the Thai village of Mae Salit, who just couldn't put their Bible down*



child needs to look after their health, get an education and learn about Jesus.

Mark Brown, the Youth and Children's worker with Bible Society NSW says the response was phenomenal. 'Day after day we'd see the same – there was lots of fun, games, songs, face painting, dramas and teaching English and hygiene. Relationships would be built and then we'd share Jesus with these kids. Time and time again they responded on mass. It's something we could never have done without our fabulous Bible Society supporters. God's Word is at the centre of everything we do and believe'. ■

# From hatred to healing

Oliver Kameya is a remarkable man, transformed by the love of God. He grew up through the Rwandan genocide of 1994 and the central theme of his education was hatred.

He spoke movingly to 300 students from five of Sydney's independent schools gathered in the Abbotsleigh chapel Wahroonga, at the launch of an exciting new partnership between Bible Society and African Enterprise. It will use printed and audio-visual materials, focusing on the themes of repentance, forgiveness, justice and reconciliation. It aims to improve the literacy skills of more than 100,000 Rwandan school children over three years, also enabling them to come into a living relationship with Jesus.

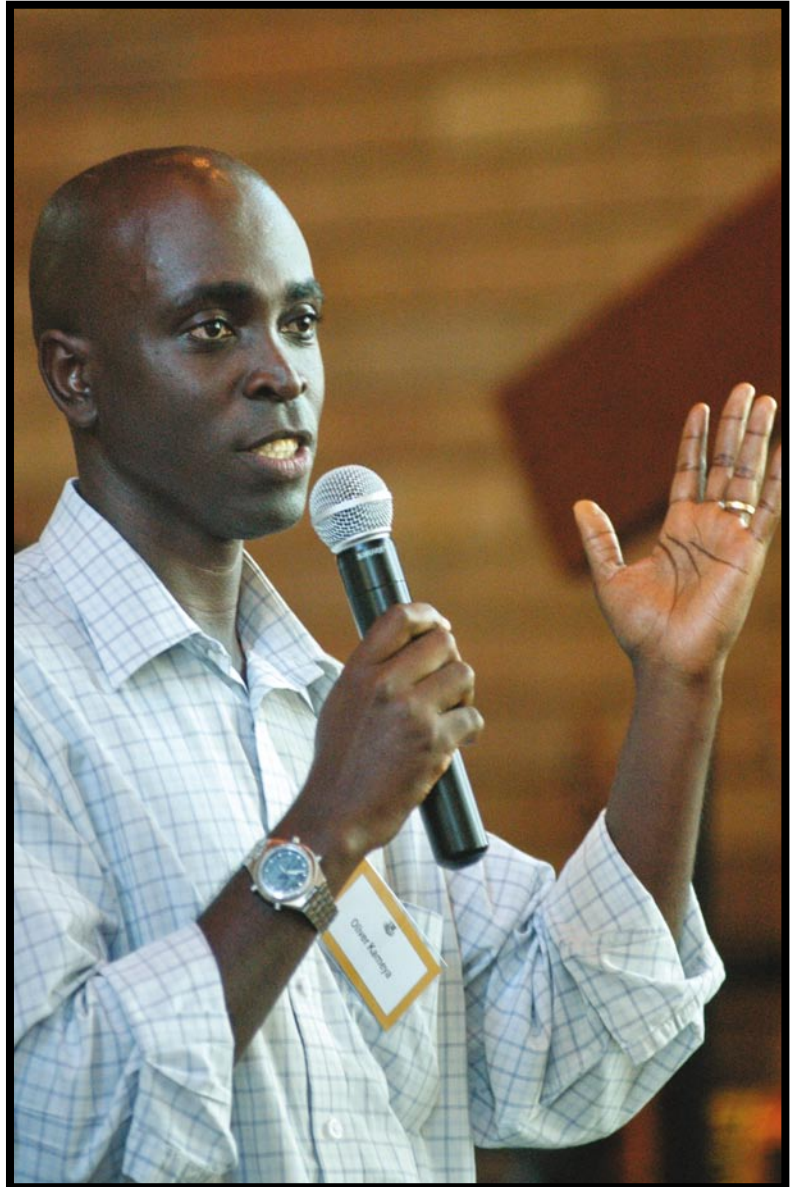
Mark and Darlene Zschech from Hillsong also spoke powerfully of their involvement in 'Hope Rwanda' a global effort to respond to Rwanda's 100 days of horror in 1994 with 100 days of hope.

Darlene told the students of the transforming power of God's Word and the healing that forgiveness can bring to broken lives.

Oliver put it like this – 'It's my duty as a survivor to tell you what happened to us. God has given you so much. He has given you a life – not to waste it, but to help others.'

More information is available on the Bible Society NSW website, [www.biblesocietynsw.com.au](http://www.biblesocietynsw.com.au) ■

*Oliver Kameya, a survivor of the Rwandan Genocide*



## World Day of Prayer

Earlier this year, the annual World Day of Prayer was held, with the theme, 'United under God's tent'. This year, the service was prepared by the World Day of Prayer committee in Paraguay, offering participants an insight into the life and struggles of people there.

The Sydney service was held at Wesley Mission and the guest speaker was Pastor John Menzies, who had visited Paraguay during his seven years of missionary service in Uruguay. The offering received from services across NSW has gone to help the work of the Bible Society. ■

# Learning and literacy in Cambodia

The troubled nation of Cambodia reports some breathtaking figures on literacy. Out of every 100,000 children who enter the school system, only 316 will make it into higher education.

However after decades of conflict, a slowly recovering education system is struggling to peg back these figures. Bible Society is also working to offer Cambodians a better quality of life. We are partnering with local churches to

provide literacy training to the disadvantaged, with a particular focus on rural areas.

Because of the low literacy rates, children won't be taught by printed materials. Instead, they will learn by listening to audio cassettes or CD's. There will be a strong focus on familiarising students with the Bible, as they're equipped with literacy skills.

50 Bible school students have already been equipped to

lead the literacy classes and they are enthusiastically tackling their vital tasks.

It's an ambitious project to be conducted over the next three years.

**Will you join us in this important program for this troubled and needy nation? Please send us your tax deductible donation with the coupon on the back page of the magazine, phone our donor line 1300 552 537, or donate online using your credit card at [www.biblesocietynsw.com.au](http://www.biblesocietynsw.com.au)** ■

*Members of the congregation of a small church outside Phnom Penh, where literacy classes are being held*



## China tour 2007

Bible Society NSW is conducting an exciting tour of China later this year. Those taking part will participate in Bible distribution, meet local Christians, join their Sunday worship, visit the Amity printing press as well as undertake general sightseeing. The itinerary will include a visit to Xiamen, where 19<sup>th</sup> century Christian

missionary activities began. The first Protestant Church built in 1848 is still standing there today.

The all inclusive cost will be approximately \$3500 per person, twin share. Limited places are available.

For more information, contact David Lim on 9888 6588 or 0417 403 393. ■

The Bible Society is a non-profit interdenominational organisation. It is a member of the United Bible Societies, a world wide fellowship of 142 organisations working in more than 200 countries.

Our mission is to achieve the widest possible, effective and meaningful distribution of the Holy Scriptures, by providing the Word of God to people in a language they can understand, in a format they can use, and at a price they can afford, and helping people to interact with the Word of God.

### Bible Society NSW

#### Postal Address:

PO Box 375  
NORTH RYDE NSW 1670  
**Office:** 5 Byfield Street  
MACQUARIE PARK NSW 2113  
**Phone:** (02) 9888 6588  
**Fax:** (02) 9888 7820  
**Bibleshop:** Ground Floor  
213 Clarence Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

#### Bibleshop Direct Line:

(02) 9262 6355

**Fax:** (02) 9267 7415

**Orders:** 1300 766 963

#### Donor Assistance Line:

1300 552 537

**Website:** [www.biblesocietynsw.com.au](http://www.biblesocietynsw.com.au)

#### Feedback:

[Editor@biblesocietynsw.com.au](mailto:Editor@biblesocietynsw.com.au)

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# Bible Society **BOOKSHOP**

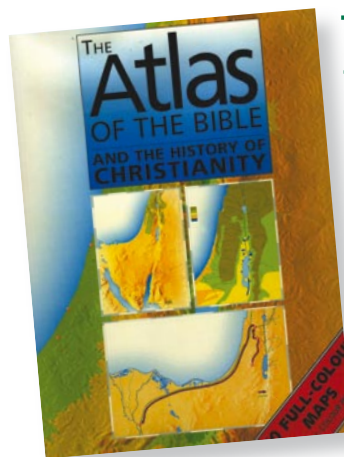
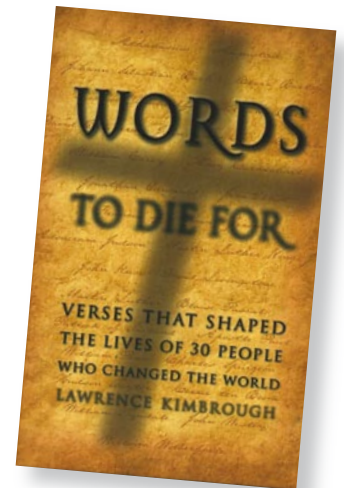
*Making the Bible heard since 1817*

NSW

*The Bible Specialists*

## Words to Die For

A book of verses that shaped the lives of 30 people who changed the world, such as Luther, Spurgeon, Jim Elliot, and Corrie ten Boom. It looks at how the power of God that worked in the past can still change our lives today. (Hardcover binding with gold gilt edging, 188 pages.) Code: 0805439080, \$29.95



## The Atlas of the Bible and the History of Christianity

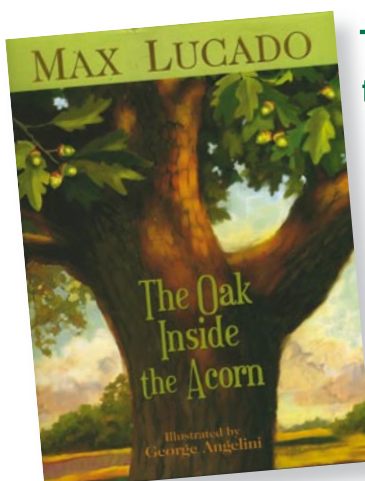
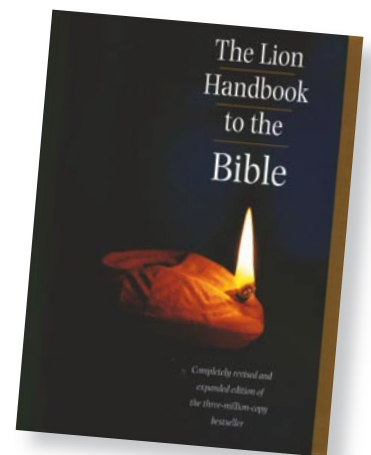
An innovative atlas presenting a wealth of information on the events of Bible times and the development of the church, through a series of 160 full colour maps and 50 colour photographs. (Hardcover binding, 160 pages.)

Code: 0564040169, \$19.95

## The Lion Handbook to the Bible

This bestselling Bible handbook offers a section-by-section outline of each book and expert articles on the background of the Bible. Hundreds of full colour photographs, charts, diagrams and maps complement the text. (816 pages.)

Code: 0745950949, \$39.95



## The Oak Inside the Acorn, by Max Lucado

A beautifully illustrated children's book, following the story of one little Acorn, teaching children about the miracle inside each of us. Within every child is the special person God created, just waiting to grow. (Hardcover binding.)

Code: 1400306019, \$19.95 ■

## Bookshop order form

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Please debit my  MasterCard  Visa Card

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I would like to become a member of the bookshop and receive regular bookshop catalogues plus a 5% discount on all non sale items.  
**Please send to Bible Society Bookshop  
213 Clarence Street, Sydney NSW 2000**

## Donation form

- Wontulp-Bi-Buya College (tax deductible) (Report page 2) (Bw38)
- Cambodian literacy project (tax deductible) (Report page 6) (Bw39)
- Where needed most (non tax deductible)

Enclosed is my gift of:  \$50  \$75  \$125  \$250  \$\_\_\_\_\_

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**Please send to:**  
Bible Society NSW, PO Box 375 North Ryde NSW 1670

The Trustee for Bible Society Foundation ABN: 41725839724.

## Please pray

- Pray for Father Barry Paterson at Wontulp-Bi Buya College in far North Queensland. Pray for the students that they may be positive role models and real agents for change when they return to their local communities.
- Pray for the people of Cambodia who continue to struggle with low literacy levels and poverty following decades of conflict. Pray for the Cambodian Bible Society as they partner with local churches to provide Scripture based literacy training to the poor and disadvantaged.
- Pray for the children living in the refugee camps along the Thai-Burma border who have recently received Bible backpacks, that they will discover God's love for them as they read the children's Bibles provided in the backpacks.

## What's on

Information morning teas for supporters:

- Newcastle – June
  - Central Coast – July
  - Wollongong – August
  - Lismore & Far North Coast – September
- Contact the NSW Office on 02 9888 6588 for information on venues and meeting times.

**July** – Celebration of the Bible month. Focusing on the importance of the Bible and the work of Bible Society.

**Sunday 29 July** – Bike for Bibles Mulga Bill festival ride, Yeoval.

## Expand your memory!

**June – John 6:28-29**

Then they asked him, 'What must we do to do the works God requires?' Jesus answered, 'The work of God is this: to believe in the One he has sent.'

**July - Ecc 4:9-10**

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: If they fall down, they can help each other up. But pity those who fall and have no one to help them up!

**August - Eph 5:19-20**

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Bible Society NSW**

PO Box 375 North Ryde NSW 1670

**Phone:** (02) 9888 6588

**Feedback:** Editor@biblesocietynsw.com.au

**Website:** www.biblesocietynsw.com.au