



bible educational services

"Providing resources to Postal Bible Schools and others around the world."

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

**SPRING
2011**



GOD IS SO GOOD!

These were the words we sang in 8 different languages, which rang out time and time again, from The Stables Conference Centre in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland. The Delegates at the International Conference praised God for all that He has been doing, is doing and we believe, will do in the days ahead, through Bible Educational Services and the use of Bibletime lessons across the world.

Delegates from 18 countries came together for a full week for Training, Prayer, and Report Sessions about Bibletime work in 22 different countries and to share fellowship and their visions together. It was quite a remarkable week and we sensed the Lord's presence in a memorable way. There was a spirit of love and unity amongst the Delegates and a sense of encouragement to go forward and do all that we can in whichever country the Delegates operated "to tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord." David Tucker's Ministry was a real blessing to all the delegates who sensed that God was speaking to us.

One outstanding session was the Craigavon International Report Meeting when over 300 Northern Ireland Christians gathered to hear what

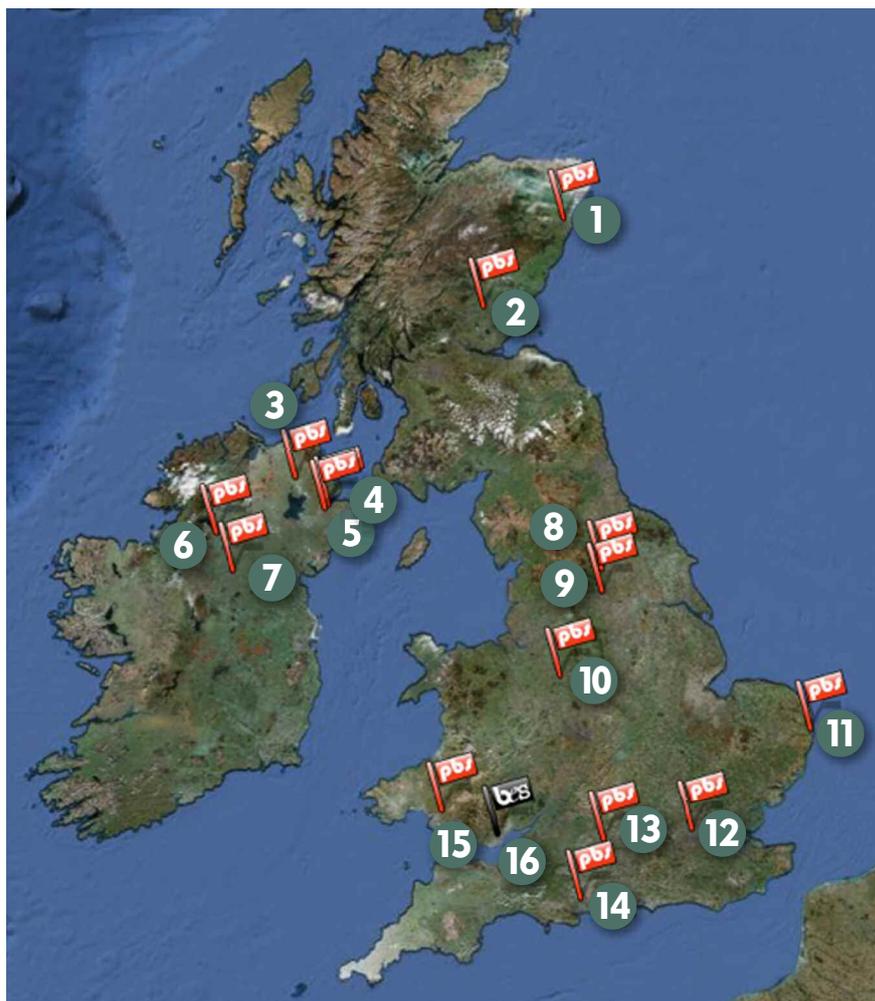
God is doing. It was a memorable evening and we are so grateful to so many who supported us on that occasion. Another highlight of the week was the visit to The Revival Movement Association Printing Press where we saw not only Tracts and Gospels being produced in a large number of languages but also thousands of Bibletime lessons that have been prepared for Africa and were ready for shipment. We can't speak too highly of the work of The Revival Movement Association and the tremendous help that they have given, making it possible for thousands of lessons to be printed for use in Africa. As we enjoyed fellowship together and the hospitality of many Christians in the Enniskillen area it is no wonder that time and time again we could cry from our hearts "God is so good".

In this Edition of BES News, which is a larger edition than before, is a summary of the work of Bibletime as it was reported by those personally involved in all the countries that were represented at the Conference. We would ask everyone who receives BES News to rejoice with us in what God is doing and to pray for the individual needs of the Teams around the world.

news

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WHO WE ARE

MISSION, VISION AND CORE VALUES - www.besweb.org

MISSION STATEMENT

Serving you to Serve others by producing for worldwide use, consecutive Bible lessons that enable the teaching of the Word of God to the current and next generations.

VISION STATEMENT

To facilitate the production of Bible Educational Resources in many of the world's languages, through various means of communication, in partnership with others who share our core values.

CORE VALUES

The Bible – We believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God, and its consequent entire trustworthiness and supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

Faith – We believe this is God's work. We are a faith based ministry dependant on the Lord to meet our needs through individuals, churches and trusts.

Prayer – We believe this is a vital part of our ministry. We encourage prayer partners whom we keep up to date with regular prayer news.

Integrity – We believe we need to display integrity in relationships with partners and supporters who come from varied and diverse backgrounds. As a Registered Charity we conform to the requirements of the Charity Commission and file accounts every year.

Children and Youth – We believe that the children and youth of today are the Christians and Churches of tomorrow, therefore, the rising generation needs to be taught the Word of God and encouraged to live out its principles. We believe there is a need to love, protect and care for this group of the world's population.

Partnerships – We believe Partnerships are a vital component to the development of Bible Educational Resources. We aim to encourage, identify and support partners in the Work of God, who will translate, culturally adapt and produce the Bible Time resources making them available in as many languages as possible. We believe in training the partnership groups to enable indigenous, independent user centres to be established and effective in their own cultures.

COUNTRY REPORTS

CANADA

PETER SMITH



The Canadian Postal Bible School has been operating for ten and a half years during which time 6,000 young people have been sent Bibletime and New Life lessons. A Website has been operating for two years and this has produced contacts with 200 students in the USA. In total now there are 1,950 students doing the lessons. In all there are 230 teachers marking lessons. Peter is also overseeing the translation of New Life into French for French speakers in Quebec and Spanish for use in Central and South American Countries.

CROATIA

DAMIR STRBAD



Damir had not heard of BES until three months ago. In his area publishers of a Christian magazine have been praying for two years for children's material. If the lessons could be translated into the local language they could be inserted into the magazine once a month. The magazine goes to 18,000 homes so that potentially there would be a large number of children sending back their lessons and Marking Teams would need to be set up. A Translation Team needs to start as soon as possible to prepare lessons for insertion into the magazine.

CZECH REPUBLIC

RENATA SZORADOVA
JULIE PETRECKA



The Czech Republic is reckoned to be the most atheistic country in Europe.

Only 3% are recognised as evangelical. Most of the Bibletime lessons have been translated and redesigned and New Life translation has been commenced. They also have a Czech Website. There are approximately 65 students. Renata is studying for an MA in animation and has produced an animated trailer to encourage children to study stories in the Bible - this may be shown on Christian TV to promote Bibletime. Pray with the Czech Team that they will see a much greater use of the lessons after all the hard work of preparing the lessons has been done.

EASTERN EUROPE

ANREAS REH
(BES & EMMAUS)



Covering Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Armenia, Mongolia and Georgia. In Ukraine

approximately 9,000 lessons are used each month. There are about 196 markers. 38% are used in the post, 19% in Sunday School, 22% are given out individually. One lady ordered BES courses for her two grandchildren, now she has 30 children in her BES Group which meets in her home. In Moldova there are 35 markers using BES courses. 1,400 lessons are distributed - 900 through the local distribution for Sunday Schools and 500 by post. They plan "one day" camps in Churches which gives the opportunity to keep in touch with some of the students. (This is a different centre to the one supplied with lessons from Romania) In Belarus about 200 students receive lessons. In Armenia interest is growing and translation and design is underway. There is a plan to start using Armenian lessons in 2012 for children whose parents are doing Emmaus courses. In Mongolia translation will begin in July 2011. There is also an interest to commence translation in Georgia.

ETHIOPIA

TADESSE LANDEBO



There has been increased political stability in the last 30 years. Evangelicals have increased from about 5% to around 20%. Tadesse has links with the Emmaus work in Ethiopia, and has a vision for the children of Ethiopia. To reach them it will be necessary to translate Bibletime into Amaharac. Tadesse wants to bring together a Team to start the translation and initially this would be done in homes although they would hope to be able to find an office to accommodate a BES Centre in Ethiopia. The Postal system does work fairly well in the cities but since 85% of the population live in rural areas the main way of using Bibletime would be in Churches and possibly schools. Tadesse is a recent contact and much prayer is needed as he seeks to commence the work in this needy country.

FRANCE

DOROTHY SEED



Evangelicals 1%. Translation work began three years ago after Sam Balmer had visited Nantes. All the Starter Series has been completed and much of the A Series. The Team is seeking to complete this Series and then will be looking for various ways of using the lessons through individual children and Churches. It is also hoped that these lessons could be used in the Ivory Coast area, the Congo, and in other parts of French speaking Africa.



GHANA

**CHARLES ADDOCO
FRANCIS AMPONI
SINZA AKA
MARIE NOELLE ALLIHEN**

In March 2009 Charles Addoco introduced PBS to friends involved with children's ministry and as a result of this Pastor

Israel Djaba started publicising the use of Bibletime lessons in Churches and Schools in his catchment area. BES Ghana was launched officially on the 13th February 2011 in training workshops in Accra, Kumasi and Nzema where there was a great deal of interest. Pastor Israel Djaba is the National Co-ordinator – The Regional Co-ordinators are: Pastor Robert Sanglortey in the greater Accra Region, Maxwell Blay in the Western Region and Francis Amponi in the Ashanti Region. The Strategy is to have a three member Team in each Region to co-ordinate and activate Bibletime. Each Region will seek to have at least ten Churches and five schools by the close of the year. A central office is to be created for National Co-ordination of Bibletime. Prayer is needed for effective distribution of the materials in distant villages. The Revival Movement Association is now sending thousands of lessons to Ghana. Sinza Aka is working amongst displaced people on the Ivory Coast border and plans to use French Bibletime lessons as they become available.

HUNGARY

TAMAS BOZSOKI

The work in Hungary has been difficult in the past but now most of the lessons have been translated and redesigned. Post is not a very good way of distributing the lessons in Hungary because of cost but there have been 40 requests via the local Website and there are other contacts with Schools and Churches. There is a contact in a local school where it might be possible to start a Bibletime Club in English which would have the approval of parents and teachers. Tamas continues to do a very valuable graphic design work for BES and recently has been involved in designing lessons in Russian, Italian, and French, and is about to help with a redesign for Poland and possibly Ukraine as well.

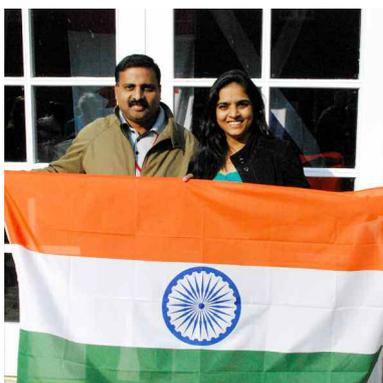


INDIA

BEJOY & LILIAN THUDAN

(Kerala state 39 million) - One of the most used languages in Kerala is Malayalam. Translation has commenced with the Starter Lessons and the A series is nearly

complete. They estimate that around 2,500 children are using the lessons in 850 Bibletime Clubs. It would be good to have lessons not only in Malayalam but also in Telegu and Tamil. The Team's vision is potentially to use 10,000 lessons of each of the 4 levels to help reach the 9 million children in Kerala.



KENYA

**DANIEL OCHIENG
MOSES OMONDI
ESRON TINDI
LAZARUS & JANE KISAU**

The work started in Kenya in September 2010 with the use of Starter lessons, printed by the Revival Movement Association and in 2011 the A Series is now being used. Lessons are used with Teens for Christ in Nairobi, where there is a potential 8,000 students, also in Teens for Christ in Nyanza where there is a potential for 2000 students. A number of Churches are also using large numbers. 800 lessons are also being sent to Uganda. Eson is now the Co-ordinator for Bibletime. Lazarus is the Emmaus co-ordinator and he has links with many Churches and Schools where there is a potential use of up to 7,000 lessons. Daniel's area is more remote but there is great potential for use in Churches and Schools in that area. There is freedom to witness and worship and there are great possibilities in Kenya.

POLAND

**MAREK & ELLA
NALEWAJKA**



Poland was the first country in Eastern Europe to have lessons translated. Up to 350 children were doing the lessons but eventually this stopped. Last May there was a concern about the unused lessons, so for the following four months Marek worked hard to put all the lessons on to the local Church Website and they are now available for use. At present no-one has volunteered to help with the revision of the text and help with possible distribution and use. Prayer is needed for the formation of a BES Team in Poland who will move the work forward to endeavour to reach the children of Poland through Bibletime. Lessons would also then be available for Polish children in the UK and Ireland as well.



ROMANIA

**CLUJ
MIHAELA VLAS
DANI LUNG
ORADEA
GSABI KABAI
ANITA TAMAS**

CLUJ (Romanian speaking) - Lessons are now distributed to 35 PBS Centres in Romania and one in Moldova. During 2011 there have been 956 new applicants. At present there are 4,673 students in total, and 21 markers are marking the 3,100 lessons posted to the office in Cluj. Only One Camp is planned for 2011- Pray that they will have enough workers and that the Lord will bless.

ORADEA (Hungarian speaking) - The lessons have all been translated and the new design is being used. New Life is being translated. There are 180 individual students and 100 are used in Churches. A 6-day camp is planned for August for PBS students, and publicity cards are being produced for further recruitment.



RUSSIA

**KATY & NIKOLAY
ABKAIROV**

Nikolay (who was unable to make it to the conference) is interested in producing programmes for Smart phones. He estimates that at present there are worldwide about 500 million Smart phones in use and by 2015 there will be something like 1,500 million. The same programme could also be used on Tablets, I Pods and electronic books. This gives the opportunity for not only text but audios, songs and video. The key is how to create personal attachment to users. At present there are about 600 students in Russia who receive lessons distributed from the Centre in St. Petersburg. There are 27 markers. Lessons are used in Churches, Schools, through the post and there is very strong link with Emmaus courses for adults.



TANZANIA

NAOMI SUMAYE

There are large numbers of English lessons from the Revival Movement Association which are being distributed. In some Schools, there are Christian teachers who are capable of helping the students and doing the marking but in some of the Government Primary Schools the teachers do not have very good English, the classes are very large and they are so busy that it is hard for them to mark the lessons and spend time helping the students. Transport of lessons around the country is quite difficult and it is mainly done carrying boxes on buses. The plan is to try and expand the use of the lessons particularly in the cities where children understand English better. They want to use a Christian magazine which is read all over Tanzania to advertise the lessons. Also a key project is to translate into Swahili. The Swahili Translation Team met for a fortnight during 2010 and translated 35 lessons. Now they are dealing with graphics and proof reading. David Ombeni is the key worker but he was unable to obtain a visa to come to the Conference. He and the team need much prayer as the use of Bibletime in English and Swahili develops in Tanzania.

SOUTH AFRICA

**MARLON & JUDY
GOVENDER**



They realised the opportunity to commence using English Bibletime lessons for children alongside the Emmaus courses for adults. Some Bibletime lessons were sent in 2010 and now the lessons have started to be used. There is a target to reach 1000 students by the end of 2011. The Emmaus work has grown from 0 to 6,000 courses in two years and it is thought that the Bibletime work could increase in a similar way. There are plans to use posters, A5 leaflets, letters to Schools and Churches and also to use a local Website for recruitment. They also need to recruit teachers which have not been needed up till now since the lessons have been mainly used in Churches and Schools but now some are being returned in the post. There is also a need to consider translation into Zulu, and Afrikaans. Lessons are now being received from Revival Movement Association.

UK & IRELAND



Praise God for the great attendances at the 47 PBS Prizegivings which Noel and Liza McMeekin held through the Spring.. Pray for all PBS Outreaches this Summer, especially in Agricultural Shows, and Camps. Pray that new children will commence Bibletime lessons. (More details in the next edition of BES News)



SPAIN

Gil Vargas

Gil is the Emmaus Co-ordinator for Spain and is keen to use Bibletime for the children in Spain. The four Starter lessons have been translated into Spanish and some work done on Level 1. Gil plans to form a Team to work together in translation, checking scripts, designing lessons, and printing and then they could commence recruitment. They also have a desire to reach some of the immigrant populations in Spain. There are at least 24 Nigerian churches and 15-20 Romanian churches where Bibletime lessons in English and Romanian could be used. The Spanish project is in its early stages and needs much prayer.

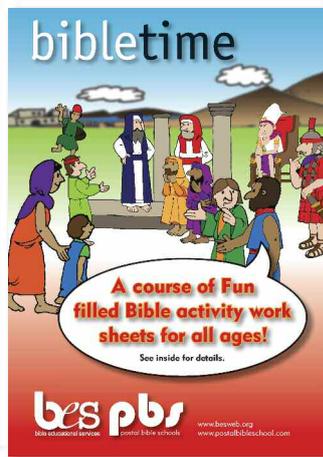


ZAMBIA

**WILLIE BUNDA
KELVIN & JOYCE
SAMWATA**

Zambia received the first English lessons in September 2010. The churches have accepted the Bibletime lessons as a great means of teaching children. At the Chingola Bible Centre two offices are being rented to run Emmaus and Bibletime and Willie Bunda is the Co-ordinator for distribution and marking. In Chingola 50 Churches have been trained with an average of 80 children and 8 teachers in each Church. Training this summer will be in Kitwe for more Church workers and teachers. They have a Day Camp organised for the 16th July in Zambia and 4,000 children are likely to be present.

PUBLICITY FLYER



BES have designed a new publicity leaflet which includes information about the lessons, a sample question and an application form. They are designed for distribution to families, church groups, schools or anyone else who might be interested.

Copies are available for purchase at a small cost, contact Sam Balmer for details - sam@besweb.org

ONLINE LESSONS

We have been exploring the possibility of online interactive lessons for a number of years, and the conference was a great place for meeting and networking with people who have the skills and the passion to take the project forward. Namely Holger Meyer from Germany who designs online magazines mainly for use on iPads, and Nikolay Abkairov a developer from Russia working for Skype. We are planning to all meet in the next few weeks to take the first step in making this a reality.

We are also looking at system called Shared Study (www.sharedstudy.com) which will effectively allow us to create Online Bible Schools which run in a similar manner to a Postal Bible School. This system should be up and running in the near future. If you would like more information, or would be interested in using the system either as a teacher or student please contact Steve McDonald - steve@besweb.org

STOP PRESS

KENYA

We have just given out 6000 lessons to the students in Teens for Christ meetings in Nyanza province. There is an increasing need and another order of 4000 lessons has been forwarded to us for consideration. In Nairobi several Churches have placed their orders and we are so glad we came to the Conference. God is indeed blessing this work already. We are praying for this work all over the

World. I am happy that we have a discipleship material to put before the children now.

ETHIOPIA

We have appointed the national director of the Emmaus with other folks as Team members of the translation group; we are planning to do the translation work together as soon as possible

CROATIA

At the end of next week we will have translated all lessons from A8-A12 in all levels. After that I will work with Tamas to prepare lessons for printing. We need to have all prepared to print in the magazine.

FINAL THOUGHT - Psalm 145: 9-12

"The LORD is good to all; He has compassion on all He has made. All you have made will praise You, O LORD; Your saints will extol you. They will tell of the glory of Your kingdom and speak of Your might, so that all men may know of Your mighty acts and the glorious splendour of Your kingdom."

This growing work needs much prayer - a monthly email prayer sheet is now being prepared for all BES supporters. If you would like to be added to the list, contact Sam Balmer at sam@besweb.org.

It is impossible to convey in print all that God is doing through BES at this time. Trustees, or one of their representatives, would be pleased to come to any Church fellowship and explain with a visual presentation the latest news and prayer points. Alternatively we are working on DVD's of the Conference's Country Reports which we hope to have available shortly, which could be shown in any Church Prayer Meeting.

Sam Balmer is in Scotland November 1st- 5th 2011 and in the Birmingham area April 17th -20th 2012. **Stephen Gillham** is in the North West November 21st – 27th 2011. Sam or Stephen would be very happy to hear from any in those areas who would like a visit. They, other trustees or Steve McDonald could be available at other times.

Andrew Hewer of Bristol has kindly offered to be a BES / PBS representative in his area. He can be contacted by phone on **07503 837732** or by email at andrew.hewer@sky.com. We would welcome hearing from others willing to represent us in other areas or churches. Contact bert@besweb.org if interested.

BES TRUSTEES & CONTACTS - Full details available at www.besweb.org

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Further copies of this BES news can be downloaded from the BES website - www.besweb.org