



Reports from Europe and Surrounding Countries

"God working wonders". Exodus 15: 11

Hungarian speaking

Romania *Csaba Kabai*

In February, I visited a Good News Club in a small Hungarian speaking village, where they hold an outreach with gypsy children. There is quite a big gap between Hungarians and gypsies so they call this outreach - 'Building Bridges - Changing Hearts'. It is led by a young Christian gypsy sister. A former PBS student, originally from Northern Ireland but now married and living in Budapest, is very involved in this project.

When I saw how many precious children had come to hear about the Lord Jesus and His love, it touched my heart deeply. On arriving home, I spent time in prayer and realized that this was the exact day when according to the previous BES Prayer Diary, the prayers were for us!

The Lord didn't leave me at peace. It was in my heart to go back and show them the Hungarian Bibletime lessons. Most of the children cannot read and write but love to hear Bible stories. So some weeks later I went and visited them again. I introduced the lessons and explained how to use them. 8-10 young people signed up at once to receive lessons.

One of my concerns is how we will deal with a Prize-giving in the summer. They are far away from us and we have limited time. I still have no answer to that, but just the encouragement to go and bring the good news to them.

Both the Prize-givings and the Summer Camp in August can be challenging. The Lord knows whom He would like to see at the camp (We offer spaces free of charge for some students

based on a special selection). Pray that He will guide us with all decisions in relation to these events.

We still don't know the next step. But we have a Lord who knows and He will guide us. We, as a family, continue to trust in Him and know that He will not forsake us and will act in His time.



Csaba working in the Hungarian speaking part of Romania.

Albania

Lorenc Tona is coordinating the translation in Albania. Please pray for the small team as they continue this painstaking task along with their already heavy workload.

Armenia

The translation into Armenian has been very slow and will need to be completely revised. Pray that God would provide people willing to help with translation.

Belarus

Yacob is using the Russian lessons in several churches. They are printed in St. Petersburg and sent to him. He distributed 3,953 lessons last year.

Croatia

Damir Strbad has been promoting the lessons to various churches and also to Josip's church connections. 40 churches are now using the lessons with Damir distributing them from his garage. Josip has prepared a pack of 12 months of lessons and is planning a promotion of 1,000 of these at three church retreats; Split, Zagreb & Osijek. This has massive potential. Damir asks for prayer. Over 100,000 people have left Croatia for the UK, Ireland and Germany in the last six months. Many of these are capable believers, thus reducing the gifting in the local churches. He also needs prayer for other ministry pressures, and gives thanks for the ministry of Revival Movement who supply the material.



Josip (bottom left) and Damir (bottom right) with Sam, Tamás and Andreas.

Czech Republic

Bibletime lessons were translated by Karel Ouzky and his brother Lubov and are now being revised. They have 80 students of which 45 are via correspondence with the rest in Sunday Schools. It is a difficult country to get responses due to its Communist background and increased Secularism. Yet it is amazing to have a group of dedicated students. We must never underestimate the value of one child coming to saving faith in Christ and being discipled in His ways.



The Czech Republic team.

France

The French team have enjoyed getting to know each other and sharing experiences in translating and checking the lessons. They also have opportunities to pray for each other and prayer subjects go well beyond the BES subjects. One church in France has been in contact about using the lessons in their Sunday School. Pray that other French churches will also be interested. It is also encouraging that the French lessons are being widely used in Africa. Please pray that the team will be able to work on the Teacher's Guidelines so teachers can make the best possible use of the lessons. Pray also that if some teachers are not believers, they may come to know the Lord through teaching the lessons.



Alain and Christine Monclair.



Gerald & Dorothy Seed.



Michelle (left) and Sophie (right) both in France.

Germany

Bibletime was introduced to Germany by a past pupil from Northern Ireland. John was in Germany and asked in a local church if anyone would consider translating Bibletime. Andrea Przewodnik had been asking the Lord for two years if there was something she could do for Him. It wasn't long before Andrea commenced the painstaking task of translating all 720 Bible stories. With some help, this is now complete. Her husband Andreas commenced the Graphic Design with Tamás Bozsóki's assistance and the lessons are now being used in various pilot projects in German-speaking countries by Andreas and Andrea as well as Hartmut Schulte.



Sam Balmer with Andreas and Andrea.

Hungary

In Hungary, activity is mainly through the website (www.bife.hu). All lessons are available in PDF and are revised monthly. Within one month there were more than 400 visits to the website. Pray that people would find what they are searching for and use the lessons for their benefit and for the glory of God. Tamás was recently contacted by a school teacher who teaches handicapped children. She requested the lessons in the same translation as the Bible they use as it would make teaching the lessons much easier. Tamás has offered to make the changes and the teacher is going to advertise the lessons to her colleagues. Tamás also works on the Graphic Design of French, German, Turkish, Albanian, Nepalese, Amharic and Swahili lessons. Please pray for the translation and editing teams.



Stephen Gillham with the Hungarian team.

Italy

Rod Jones and the team have completed the translation of the Italian lessons which are now available on our website (www.besweb.com). Some evangelical churches are already using the materials. They also plan to translate the Teacher's Guidelines. Please pray for those involved and for increased web traffic.

Moldova - South

This March CMAID organized a meeting for Bibletime students in the south of Moldova. Out of 252 registered students, 15 children attended. Each child received a diploma and small gift. To the team's surprise, some of the children who came were those who had stopped completing Bibletime. They were given the lessons again with the hope that they will resume their study. Please pray that the team in Moldova would be a living witness for them, so that the Lord can work in the hearts of the people there.



The Moldova team.

Moldova - North

Anatoli Slivca works from Balti in the north of the country, using both Russian and Romanian lessons. They seek to visit children in rural villages. They also run a summer camp for children who complete Bibletime. Last year they distributed 16,086 lessons.

Poland

Please pray for the need of someone capable to edit the new design layout and translate Level 1.

Romania

Mihaela Lung is under pressure from the demands of the local correspondence ministry with over 5,000 enrolled students and the development of the campsite which will cater for over 80 people. Praise God for continued blessing in this ministry and for a great group of Romanians on the Timpul Bibliei Board.

Russia

Natasha Smertina is coordinating both Emmaus and BES ministries. Svetlana Klaptsova mainly works with the children's material. They both seek

to support Luibov in Ukraine as she often feels isolated. Last year, they distributed 8,948 lessons, mainly from St. Petersburg. Emmaus are planning a conference in June to encourage their co-workers and are in need of more to move the work forward. The children's work in Russia is growing. In the East, Valentine is based in Khabarovsk and is using the material with churches he has established. Not far from him, Svetaslav and family are reaching out into remote or 'forgotten' villages with limited access which can only be reached in winter when the lakes freeze!

Spain

At the moment Gil and Carolyn Vargas are putting the final touches on the Spanish C series. Please pray for the editor in Seville, a young Mum with two children and in the middle of a new church plant with her husband. They were at a Bible Conference in Galicia for Easter break and gave out many packets of "mibiblia". Praise God for a good reception to the materials.

Turkey

Prayers are answered in a new translator starting to help and another church using Bibletime in Turkish. Pray for effective use of the translated lessons from the website and within the country.

Ukraine

Luibov reports that the work here has plateaued but they still distributed 67,730 lessons last year. The war in Ukraine has had an effect. However, they are still able to send Bibletime to the occupied parts. Anatoli from Moldova has been visiting the west Carpathian area of Ukraine, visiting various churches and promoting Bibletime in the hope that a local contact could coordinate the ministry there. Pray that this would happen.

United Kingdom

CEF Britain

The CEF Bibletime group, led by Rachel Ball is fairly small. However, they have begun using Level 1 lessons to help a group of Romanian children in the UK learn English. A local CEF worker will coordinate the teaching of English using the lessons while Rachel will mark them. Please pray that the students would keep going with Bibletime. Please also pray for this new venture of using the lessons to teach English.

PBS Dorset

The Dorset Postal Bible School, led by Stephen & Jean Gillham has been going for some 35 years. In early days concentration was on children

they met in camps, holiday clubs and children's missions. Recently, most contacts are by word of mouth or from the BES website. They have 250-300 students each month and a dedicated team of 21 markers. Pray that the Lord will work in the hearts of the students and bring them to Him.

PBS London

London Postal Bible School led by Charles Addoco is doing well. They have migrant community churches completing the lessons, with two churches completing the materials faithfully. This is very encouraging. Pray that God will lead the team to others who need the materials and pray for more volunteers to help with the work.

PBS Norfolk

At the end of 2015 there were 156 students and 18 markers. The markers meet four times a year for prayer and planning, with an AGM held in January. Outreach is held via a family day each year for students, a stand at the Norfolk Show each year and four weeks of Bible Camps. Colin Wooden gives thanks for the Lord's goodness and faithfulness that the team continues to this day.



The PBS stand at the Norfolk Show.

PBS South Wales

The numbers have dropped recently as it was decided to only send lessons to students who return them regularly. Give thanks for God's financial provision for the work and the number of enquiries from the website. Give thanks also for the teachers who faithfully mark lessons; they are an essential part of the work. Pray that Stephen and Gwyneth Treseder would have time and energy for the administration. Pray specifically for Bibletime students in Wales; it is increasingly difficult to maintain their interest.



Gwyneth Treseder in South Wales.

PBS Tyrone & Fermanagh

Sam & Louise Balmer now have 4,400 students with 60 volunteers helping with grading. They have been very busy recently with Prize-givings taking place in 22 schools who use the lessons as part of their RE curriculum. They distributed 3,200 prizes and great appreciation was shown from teachers. Give thanks to God for these open doors in schools to reach children and teachers.

United Beach Missions (UBM)

Over 100 children, parents and markers met together in April for the Postal Bible Club's 19th birthday. They had singing, memory verses, stories and quizzes, with archery, canoeing, football and rounders during the day. The children were also able to exchange some of their points for books and prizes. Please continue to pray for the 250 children as they learn from their Bibletime each month and for the markers who encourage the children with comments and letters.



People at the UBM Postal Bible Club's birthday.

Other Centres in the U.K. & Ireland

Please pray for the other Centres and praise God for new Centres starting:

- **PBS Belfast**
Brian & Janet Wilkinson
- **PBS Ireland**
Noel & Liza McMeekin
- **PBS Kingfisher, Berkshire**
Luke & Gwen Butler
- **PBS Living Word, Stoke-on-Trent**
David & Susan Jackson
- **PBS North East, Ballymena**
Ivan & Jenny McClean
- **PBS Orkney**
Mervyn Sandison
- **PBS Schools, Belfast**
Joe & Ruth Rogers
- **PBS Scotland**
Jean Stott & Sarah McKensie
- **Ultimate Adventure Club, Aberdeen**
Paul Coxall
- **Words of Life, Harrogate**
Paul & Elizabeth Jackson

In this Edition we have concentrated on the BES Work in Europe & Surrounding Countries. In future BES News we plan reports from the Americas in Autumn 2016, from Asia in Spring 2017, and Africa in Autumn 2017 - (Australia & Oceania to be included with one of these editions)

Trustees

We welcome to our Trustees, Judith McKeown who currently works with the Christian Institute and has been involved in Postal Bible School most of her life. The Trustees met in Belfast in February and have planned a Strategy Meeting in September. Please pray for guidance.



Bert Gray (third from left) with the BES Trustees.

Editorial

The A Series and B Series Teacher's Guidelines are completed and available on the BES website for users who would like extra guidance in introducing Bibletime in their Sunday Schools/ Youth Groups, etc. The C Series will hopefully be completed by Autumn, ready for printing and translation for overseas work in 2017.

The C Series Booklets are being revised and ready for printing for 2017.

At the end of 2015 Level 0 lessons were completed. This has been a very popular lesson and many pre-school children are now using these lessons regularly.

In 2016 we started to revise Level 1 to increase

the lesson from one page per week to two pages, with new graphics, text and tasks. It has been very well received. The Editing Team is working through the A Series and will be starting the B Series for next year.

In December we published the second version of our Prayer and Praise Diary. These are available from the BES office.

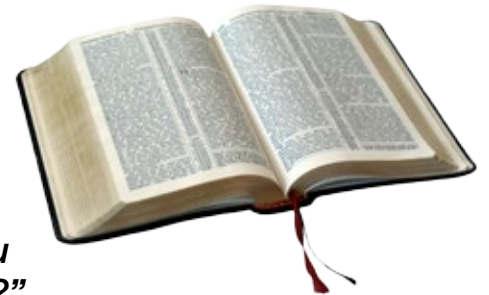
Final Thought

Moses and the Israelites had crossed the Red Sea and then they broke into a united song of praise to God. God had released them from the bondage of Egypt and enabled them as a nation to cross the Red Sea. In Egypt there had been many gods; now they acknowledge the True God of Heaven.

“Who among the gods is like You, O Lord? Who is like You - majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?”

Exodus 15: 11

Their God is Our God who continues to do wonders especially throughout the many countries of Europe. When we consider the problems over the years, of the Cold War, Communism, Persecutions of Christians and material secularism, we must stop and praise Him for all that He has done, doors which are now open and new opportunities which come so often. Thank God He is still “working wonders”!



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Some Trustees are available to give reports and encourage prayer for this worldwide ministry.

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