



## Reports from the Americas

### Canada

*Pete & Elaine Smith*

This past July marked 17 years of PBS work in Canada. We are based in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, in the heart of the Canadian Prairies. We currently have 2,200 students (including 500 in the USA) and a faithful team of 255 teachers.

We've just finished another busy season of tent mission work over a seven-week period, mainly focused on reaching children. The attendance was most encouraging, with over 400 children and around 40-45 parents during the four series of Treasure Seekers in Manitoba. On each occasion PBS was promoted and several signed up who we met for the first time this summer.



*Pete & Elaine Smith*

Our last outreach was in a new area, about an hour north of Winnipeg, in a small rural community called Arborg. We had learned of a family there that did PBS, who were interested in having some children's meetings in their area. We were curious how many PBS students lived in Arborg and were very surprised to see some 40 active students, linked to 19 families! Many were from a religious Mennonite background. We sent a letter to each to gauge interest and received 5 replies, 4 of which were positive. One mum emailed to say her children jumped for joy when they heard about the meetings! A tent site was secured and 1,100 tent invitations were mailed beforehand. From an excellent start of 49 children we grew to 68 on the final afternoon. We saw a total of 86 children and had between 10-15 mums each afternoon too. Adult meetings continued into a second week and God willing, we plan to return there next summer. In the meantime, we would value prayer for God's blessing upon His Word, that His Spirit will convict and draw many to the Saviour and that we would have guidance as to whether a weekly Gospel work should commence or a special winter series should be held.

Sometimes a small promotional booth is set up in a village fair, as was the case last summer in another rural village in Ontario. Besides this kind of outreach most of our new applications (238 were received in July & August this year) come through our website and are often folk who are simply surfing the net or have been introduced by a friend.

Work has continued on the Spanish translation of the NewLife Bible Studies. The first proof-read is nearing completion, with a second final read now underway. At the same time, we have been working on our first revision of

our English NewLife Course, which has now been laid out in two colours (red & black) like the Spanish. God willing, we hope these will be completed over the coming winter months.



### POINTS FOR PRAYER:

- The pressing need for more teachers (200 students are without a regular one!)
- Meeting the monthly costs of producing and distributing 2,200 lessons and prizes
- God's hand to bless His Word in salvation to each student and their family
- Young believers to be helped and encouraged as a result of their studies
- Help to complete both NewLife projects this coming winter
- Daily strength and help for Pete & Elaine and all who help them in the PBS Centre



## Ontario, Canada

*Sue Ellery, Emmaus PBS*

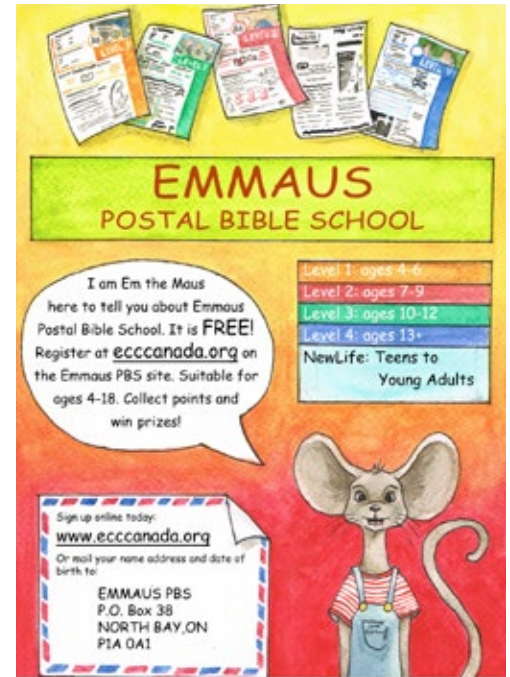
The Emmaus Correspondence Centre recently started in Ontario, Canada in May 2016. I work with Emmaus and have recently started Emmaus PBS work under the umbrella of the Centre run by Pete and Elaine Smith. I am currently running the PBS programme from my home, 2 hours from the Centre. So far, the number of students completing the lessons is small. To date, there are 6 teachers signed up to mark, 6 registered students and several promising to mail back their lessons. However, within the last 2 weeks, there have also been 13 online registrations and 3 requests received by mail for PBS lessons. Slowly, word is spreading in the area that there is something new for the children to learn from.

Please pray for the early stages of this work in Ontario, Canada. We have teachers with no lessons to send to them yet because parents

and students are not yet in the practice of returning their lessons. It has been encouraging, as a result of contacts made, to have young mothers come and talk to me about their struggles. Such battles these young families face. All the more reason for their children and the family to get into Scripture and be renewed.



*Above: Sue Ellery  
Right: Emmaus PBS flyer*



## Texas, USA

*Mark, Joanne & Eloise Grattan*

The Postal Bible School Centre in Texas was set up in 2014. Sam and Matthew Balmer made a trip out to help kick start the process after the need for follow up with children and teens was laid on our hearts. We started with just a few students, with help and support from the Believers at Manvel Bible Chapel.

The Centre has grown over the past couple of years and lessons are now going out to over 100 students each month. A private school in Florida has recently started using the lessons as well. To better tailor to the US students, the UK lessons are modified to allow for the differences in paper size and US English. Thanks to BES and Manvel Bible Chapel we also have a brand new printer which will make printing much quicker and easier, so more students can be reached.

Many of the students have joined after being at summer camp, but live far away and do not attend any church. The lessons have been beneficial in maintaining contact with these children and teens despite the large geographical distances in Texas. Other students are finding PBS through the website and some are referred from Pete and Elaine Smith in Canada, who have been a great support through the process of setting up the Centre. These contacts are typically out of state and it is exciting to see the increase in the sphere in which we can serve through PBS.

The students are given the opportunity to redeem their points from a prize list of Bibles and books that are then posted to them. The students are spread over such a large area that this has been the most practical but a prize night for more local students is still a prayer point for the future.

The vast majority of the children are aged 8-10 and doing the Level 2 lessons but recently a letter came in from a 17-year-old girl called Valerie who wants to keep on doing Level 4 even though she is graduating from High School; 'I love the way these studies are helping me see so many new things about God and getting me to read the Bible more, I haven't seen anything like this programme and I am so glad I found y'all!'

### Praise points

- The new printer
- Enthusiastic teachers who are passionate about getting children reading the Bible for themselves
- Salome Philip who has recently taken the role of 'Welcome Co-ordinator'

### Other prayer points

- Prize forms going out soon
- For God's Word to be hidden in the hearts of children and for souls to be saved and lives transformed
- Now that printing will be easier, pray for the lessons to reach into more homes, especially to unbelievers



*Top and Middle: Mark & Joanne with some markers.  
Bottom: The printer!*



## St Vincent

*Fred Copeland*

For the past 43 years, I have been a regular visitor to the Assemblies in the Southern Caribbean, initially in Barbados but more recently in St Vincent and the Grenadines. The main thrust of the work has been done through annual camps and Vacation Bible Schools. Each of these schemes has produced a great crop of converts, many of whom are now actively involved in Assembly life.

One of the main problems encountered was finding suitable resources to follow up those who made serious decisions for the Lord. It was a great blessing to meet Sam Balmer when he visited Scrabo Hall last year. It was clear to me that he was sent of the Lord in answer to our prayers. After consultation with sister Mrs Pat Thom, who serves the Lord out in St Vincent, we agreed that the BES material was ideal to meet the need. A consignment of resources was duly sent to Sister Pat and quickly put to effective use.

About 4 years ago following a visit to a district of Kingstown (the capital of St Vincent) the Lord opened the door for Pat and some others to start a Sunday School. I visited the Sunday School shortly after it started. There were just 4 children and 1 adult who had brought her 2 small children. As soon as I stepped out of the car I felt the Lord challenging me to suggest to Sister Pat holding a Vacation Bible School the following year. This was duly organised and we had an enrolment of 30 or so children. We followed it up last year and had an enrolment of 85. I have just returned in August and this year we

had an enrolment of 170 children, with around 30 children making decisions to follow the Lord! This will be followed up by Sister Pat and her team of workers. Each one will be introduced to the BES material and encouraged to diligently complete the courses. Pat and another Sister take care of all of the distribution, collection and marking of the work. The Sunday school has about 40 children who regularly attend. They are encouraged to complete the Bible courses. This means there is usually around 40-50 children completing a monthly lesson. The resources have proved a great blessing and are much appreciated by Sister Pat and her team of workers in this very needy community.

During the Vacation Bible School, we hold a 'Fun Day' with a bouncy castle and a BBQ. This year we had 175 people turn up for this event. We had bought food for only 100 people yet every single person got food; only the Lord knows how this was achieved!

We also held our graduation service and distributed 115 certificates to those who met the criteria. As an incentive for the students to complete the BES course, each year we sponsor the best 20 for the annual camp which is held in the purpose built "Glad Tidings Bible Camp". Over the two separate weeks (junior and senior), around 200 young people aged 7-20 attended. For these young folk, it is the equivalent of going to Disneyland!

I also arrange for the resources to be sent to Union Island in the Southern Grenadines. The brothers there use the material with the Sunday School students and are very appreciative of the high quality of the material.



Top: Alexandre and Geovana  
Bottom: Alexandre with Dona Catarina

## Brazil

*Alexandre & Geovana Torres*

Brazil has a population of 206 million people, with 60 million being under the age of 18 so there is a great demand to meet the needs of young people. This year we received the first A5 Bibletime booklets and started to promote and distribute it among Believers and Assemblies. At the moment, the lessons are in 3 Public Schools in the Minas Gerais State, and 4 Public Schools in the Amazon State. The Federal Laws are very strict against any kind of religious influence in schools; the state is secular. Despite this, we are praying and working hard to introduce Bibletime lessons into any schools that will receive them. The interest is growing and we hope that in a few months the number of teachers and Assemblies involved will grow as well.

Dona Catarina is our oldest student completing Bibletime lessons in Brazil. I recently asked her if she still wanted to continue completing the lessons. She replied "of course!" She struggles with a lot of limitations because of her aneurysm. Even so, she is gaining strength day by day and greatly enjoys completing them.

Ana Carolina is 10 years old and lives in Pirassununga. In her recent lessons, she gave some very encouraging answers to these questions:

- 1) Using the Bible reading and the lesson, in your own words, write why the Lord Jesus died: "The Lord Jesus died to clean us of all our sins".
- 2) The Lord Jesus is alive! Feel free to tell what that means to you: "I'm very happy now. He is very close to me, even though I can't see Him".

## Sunscool

The Bibletime App



Development of Sunscool, the app that brings our Bibletime lessons to smart phones and tablets, has been progressing well. Headed up by Nikolay Abkairov, the development team have been working hard on the software and entering lessons. We now have four lessons ready, and the team are working through these, ironing out any bugs before we officially launch in early 2017.

A test version of Suncool is available to download from both the Apple and Android app stores.

We still very much need people to do this and to send their feedback to [app@sunscool.org](mailto:app@sunscool.org). To download go to the relevant app store and search for **SunScool - Sunday School app**

Or follow these links:

**Apple** - <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/sunscool-sunday-school-app/id959883048>

**Android** - <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.Sunscool.Sunscool>

## Editor's Notes

We are very grateful to all those who faithfully support us. God has been very good to us in meeting all of our needs. Published accounts for BES for 2015 are available at [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission).

The Trustees have much appreciated the tremendous help, wisdom and advice of David Tucker during the last 8 years as a Trustee of BES. David has brought to us a wide and varied knowledge of the worldwide situation which he had gained in his travels with Trans World Radio. He felt ready to retire and has stepped down. David will now no longer be involved in the Leadership of BES. He will be greatly missed and we wish him and his wife God's blessing in their many other activities in His Service. David's retirement leaves a significant gap and we are seeking the Lord's guidance about bringing new Trustees to the Team.

Strategy Meeting – The Trustees were able to have a full and valuable discussion about the way forward for BES. We are particularly anxious to encourage the use of Bibletime materials in schools. There is an increasing interest in Northern Ireland with schools using Bibletime materials. This causes great expense financially and problems with personnel. We are looking at various models and are grateful to churches

who have adopted their local schools, provided markers and financed the distribution of Bibletime materials to their local schools.

We realise that the situation varies from country to country and we are also looking at a possibility of producing a six-week course 'What is Christianity?' which would be acceptable in the curriculum in schools within the U.K. and Ireland.

All possibilities of marketing our resources through various mediums e.g. social media, website, etc. are also being considered.

We have now completed the first year of adapting the Level 1 lesson to 8 pages. An Editorial Meeting will be held in February to continue with the Level 0 and Level 1 B Series revision.

C Series Teaching Guidelines are almost completed. We will shortly be looking at ways in

which they can be reviewed but it is encouraging that they have already been translated and put to use particularly in Ethiopia, French speaking Burkina Faso, and Brazil.

## Final Thought

**'When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.'**  
*Matthew 9: 36-38*

Although we praise God for the scores of people around the world who are actively involved in helping forward the work of BES, we are conscious of gaps in teams in many places. Translators, proof readers, distributors, recruiters, administrators, to name but a few of the personnel required. The Lord requested that the disciples would pray that God would provide the needy workers. Warren Wiersbe wrote, "When we pray as He commanded, we will see what He saw, feel what He felt, and do what He did. God will multiply our lives as we share in the great harvest that is already ripe. In this case the very ones who were asked to pray were the ones who were sent." (See 10: 1)



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## Support BES

### How to support BES

You can make a one-off donation or choose to support us regularly by cheque, standing order, or any other means. You could also consider leaving a legacy to BES, so we can continue bringing the Good News of Jesus to the next generation. For more information, contact [vicky@besweb.com](mailto:vicky@besweb.com)

### BES Ireland supports BES UK as able.

Cheques made to Bible Educational Services in Euros can in some circumstances have tax reclaimed from the Irish Revenue. For more information, contact [info@besireland.com](mailto:info@besireland.com)

The next issue of BES news, due summer 2017, will focus on Asia.

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