

Into Africa

The continent with 1.216 billion people. It is estimated that half of them are children, many growing up disabled, diseased, in extreme poverty and often with little or no education. We can praise God for the devoted and hard-working Christians who have a vision to reach the children within Africa with Bibletime materials.



Into Africa



Children in Ethiopia with their booklets.

As promised, we are focusing in the Winter BES News on Africa and the development of Bibletime throughout this continent. This includes up to date prayer requests and accounts of what God is doing in many countries.

In 2009 Sam Balmer attended the Pan African Conference which is held every four years. When Bibletime material was displayed, there was immediately a lot of interest. However, a lack of funds prevented printing either in Africa or though BES in the UK. It was shortly afterwards that Revival Movement offered to print the A4 edition in English which then went to South Africa, Zambia, Kenya and Tanzania. After 2012, with increasing interest and demand, Revival Movement began producing six months lessons in A5 English Booklets and container

loads were sent out to several African countries.

It is estimated that there are between 1,500 and 2,000 different African languages, some spoken in remote areas by relatively small numbers of people. However, BES has been able to make progress in countries where English is not the main language.

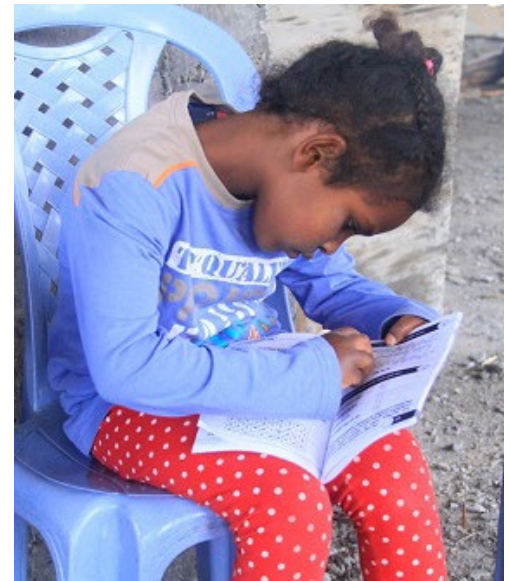
Following a visit in 2012, a translation team in Ethiopia started work on Amharic and the first container of Amharic lessons arrived in late 2016. A team in France translated Bibletime into French, and consignments went in 2015 to Congo, in 2016 to Burkina Faso and other French speaking West African countries. The team in Brazil also worked hard to produce Bibletime in Portuguese, and the first Portuguese lessons have been sent recently to Angola.

Ethiopia

Mulugeta Ashagre and Tadesse Landebo

Mulugeta writes "There are major issues logistically distributing material throughout Ethiopia due to its size, however the Ethiopian Christian Brethren Churches (ECBC) have distributed material to 1500 children recently, reaching 3 evangelical churches in southern Ethiopia. Training has taken place for 80 trainees in Hawassa and for 75 trainees in Jima and we are praying that the many children will enjoy learning about God's Word and want more of the Bibletime booklets".

Tadesse writes "Since January 2017 we have distributed more than 6,000 Bibletime booklets. During the last rainy season many evangelical churches used the Bibletime material for their D.V.B.S. programs (Daily Vocational Bible Schools programs), and the need for the Bibletime resources is increasing all of the time. The Sunday school teachers, children, parents and church leaders are very excited and thankful for the provision of Bibletime lessons and love it for its authenticity, coherence, simplicity and application points for daily Christian life. The Bibletime booklets are fast becoming the most popular form of children's literature out here."



A child in Ethiopia.



The team in Ethiopia.

Prayer points:

- The budget and organisation of fun days and prize giving events for those children who have nearly completed the A series. Pray that God would use these events for His own glory and bring many to the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The translation and provision of the B and C series in Amharic since many children are eager to continue with the Bibletime booklets.
- For those involved in the translation and provision of Affan-Oromo Bibletime booklets, since 40% of the population is Affan-Oromo speaking and the need for the Bibletime material in this language is enormous.

Burkina Faso

Christine Bonkoungou

God is doing a remarkable work throughout Burkina Faso in the village churches. BES was asked to provide French Bibletime material particularly for the capital and other major towns where French is the main language spoken. A few months ago, training took place for 160 people who were enthusiastic to learn how to use French booklets in their Churches and Schools. It was a most encouraging time and was thrilling to see the enthusiasm of so many interested in reaching the next generation with the gospel. Christine recently wrote, "We are so happy for the booklets you sent for the children. This has changed many things in teacher's and children's lives. We are all motivated in using these booklets and the children are working hard because everybody wants to get good marks. Children understand easily the booklet, even at home they use them." Stephen Gillham hopes to go in January again to do further training in the use of the B Series.



Children in Burkina Faso with their booklets.

Prayer points:

- Please pray for those who have been trained and children in different situations who are using French Bibletime booklets. Unfortunately, in the remote villages, many of the children don't speak French so there is less use of our materials.
- Pray that the children will learn the Word of God and it will enter their hearts. Pray that they will apply it to their everyday lives and they will not be enticed by the world.

- Pray that many more children will want to use the Bibletime booklets and that the ministry will grow here.
- Pray for the 100,000 B series booklets for use in 2018, which are now en-route to Burkina Faso.

Ghana

Afia Darkwar

Five years ago, Hope Spring Foundation took over the coordination of the BES Programme in Ghana, and we have seen an increasing expansion in the use of the materials among children in schools, churches and community ministries. We have now covered 4 regions out of 10 in Ghana, namely, the Ashanti, Volta,

Western and the Greater Accra Regions and hope to expand further next year.

We currently work with 36 Schools, 23 Churches, 8 Good News Clubs and five families who use the Bibletime materials regularly. Other groups also use the material for their Vacation Bible School and some parents encourage their children to use them as study guides in the house. Some of the new institutions we have recently introduced Bibletime material to include: The Labone Cantonments Christian Fellowship, Goshen Avenue Good News Club, Eagle Life International Ministries and Ladies of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship. This latter organization has a desire to reach out to children and young people in schools and prisons.

Mark Hayford from the Memorial Baptist Church said "The BES material has been a blessing to both teachers and children. It has provided us with a platform for convenient learning and a curriculum for effective teaching.". Millicent Adandze, a student from The Hannah Schools Complex said "The Bibletime material has been a blessing to me and my siblings as we use it for morning devotion."

Prayer points:

- Pray with us concerning the "Closer Walk" Campaign whose purpose is to train workers for children and youth ministries in Ghana. We see this as an opportunity for an expanded distribution and use of BES materials.
- Pray with us concerning the acquisition of our Ministry Centre facility.



A class in Ghana.

Into Africa continued

Mozambique

Patrick and Grace Mulenga

Patrick and Grace report that God has been at work in Mozambique and this year 11,360 Portuguese Bibletime booklets have been distributed to children throughout Mozambique! Since May 2017, 5 training seminars have taken place, which have been well attended. In July 2017 special meetings aimed particularly at teenagers were held, and 58 children aged 13-17 years came to salvation. Like children everywhere, they face a great deal of opposition and peer pressure to turn from God and follow worldly advice and temptations so please pray for their continued growth and walk with God. Patrick and Grace say "As we conduct more and more seminars the demand for the Bibletime material increases. We are now reaching into churches in Maputo which resulted in 15 new believers being baptized in August and 75 children and adults were baptized in the Zambezia province from 6 different assemblies! God is great! We are very excited about the December Holiday Bible Teaching Camp, which is now in its 10th year. The boys and girls are very excited for the 5 days of fun, games, learning and fellowship. We are expecting 250 children between the ages of 7-16 years to attend, the majority of whom are orphans. We are so blessed to have received the Bibletime material and children are able to use it when they are young, attending Sunday School and then later as they move through the different stages of life into being teenagers and then adulthood. We are also seeing a growth of single mothers



A school in Mozambique.

and widows interested in the Bibletime material. These groups of women face huge challenges being the sole bread-winner in the family and their energy and enthusiasm has been a great blessing to us all".

Prayer points:

- We need two brothers to attend driving school, which will enable us to travel in teams more widely throughout the country conducting seminars and distributing the Bibletime materials.
- Pray for the December Holiday Bible Teaching Camp – for children to see the love of the Lord, that we may have sufficient food to feed them for 5 days, and that we can give each child toiletries and a t-shirt. Pray that God will be at the centre of the event and move in mighty ways.

Nigeria

Ireland Outreach

Ireland Outreach works with Emmaus Bible Centres Mission utilizing the BES materials in Nigeria, Ghana and soon Liberia. Joy Obieshi, one of the leaders from Emmaus Bible Centres Mission reports, "Emmaus Bible Centres Mission Nigeria introduced me to the BES materials for children ministry. I was so excited because I believe that without the foundation of a relationship with God and training in Biblical principles for life, children are unequipped to face what life will throw at them. I have a heart for reaching and discipling children for Christ. I also have the desire to train others in this ministry. So, I now receive boxes of Bibletime booklets for distribution from EBCM through the International Coordinator, Mr Jim Gillett. I distribute them in schools and to children in the neighbourhood and churches. My small team and I recently trained school teachers and Sunday school teachers on how to teach and mark the Bibletime lessons, so that children are taught the Word of God properly in a fun and exciting way. My hope is that the children will then be equipped to face life's challenges and be able to live a Christian life having the Word of God in their heart. After the children have completed the Bibletime booklet series, we organise graduations with gifts, such as Bibles and biblical colouring books. The children and teachers are always hugely excited and encouraged at the Graduation days. We recently had our first graduation in Calabar. I am really blessed to be part of the BES ministry. We will also soon be organising BES Touching Life at Christmas. We teach village children on Christmas day about Jesus and give them Christmas gifts. We will continue to be more involved in the lives of children and use BES materials in Nigeria."



Children with their Bibletime booklets in Nigeria.

Uganda

Robert Bugwata

Robert sends this report from Off TU Mission, where he is currently stationed in Mityana, Uganda. They are working in partnership with BES to help disciple new believers and strengthen the Christian work in churches through Sunday schools. They are also using the Bibletime material in schools, where there has never been any Christian teaching or fellowships. In Mityana Secondary School, the Chaplain commented; "I appreciate BES.. it has helped offer sound doctrine to my students..". At the moment, 1,036 children are completing Bibletime booklets (1-6) at level three. Mityana diocese where they have launched BES, is operating in four districts of Mityana, Mubende, Koboga and Kyankwanzi containing 797 schools. In the last 2years, they have reached 653 schools with a total of 159,339 pupils, 52,708 of whom openly committed their lives to Christ. This explains a great need for discipleship and children's material. Please pray for the Bibletime material to be translated into the main language of Luganda which is spoken widely in the central region. It is then, that they would distribute the Bibletime material to primary schools.



Teachers after training at one church in Zambia.

Zambia

Willie Bunda

The work of BES started in Zambia in September 2010 when they received their first shipment of Bibletime material in English. The national office is in Chingola, and the work has grown in this location from a handful of churches using the Bibletime booklets, to over 14,400 children in 180 churches learning about

God using the Bibletime materials. Willie writes that he hears accounts of children's desires to learn about God unfolding every day, but one particularly fascinated him. The child's mother sells newspapers in the streets of Chingola and although she was a Christian, she was too tired to teach him about God when she got home from work. She would cook the family meal and then fall asleep. The child found a Bibletime booklet and fascinated with the puzzles, pictures and questions brought it to her to help him answer the questions and learn about the ways of God. She now allows him to accompany her when she sells the newspapers so that he can listen in the street to the Sunday School being taught! Many churches from other provinces have requested Bibletime material but to date they are systematically moving throughout the ten provinces. Currently three provinces have the Bibletime booklets: Copperbelt, North Western and Northern Province. 1,440 teachers have been trained in the use of the Bibletime lessons, and there are plans to train Sunday school teachers from ten churches in Luanshya.

Prayer points:

- Pray for the challenge of transport to reach the churches in new provinces and to find good people to partner with as we train and distribute the materials to churches and schools in Zambia. We are yet to reach towns and cities like Kabwe, Lusaka, Livingstone and Mansa.
- Pray for the printing of Bibletime material level 1, in the Kikaonde language.
- 3.7 million people speak Bemba and we are considering the possibility of translating Bibletime into Bemba.



Children in Zambia.

Into Africa continued



A class of children in Kenya.

Cote D'Ivoire

Gnui Sinza

BES was launched in Cote D'Ivoire after the 2011 BES Conference in the UK. We returned to the Cote D'Ivoire with a passion and desire to mobilize churches, youth movements and other organisations into using the Bibletime booklets. Unfortunately, we have had many issues with printing, but we believe that God has helped us to overcome this challenge and we are going to partner with Emmaus. We currently have 30 churches in Gonzagueville and Grand Bassam who have been introduced to Bibletime and who require the Bibletime booklets, so please pray for the printing of the booklets in the near future, and the new partnership with Emmaus.

Kenya

Lazarus and Jane Kimanzi

BES in Kenya began in 2008 and thousands of children have used the Bibletime material throughout the country. During 2016-2017 we have distributed the following quantities to children: Level 1 – 68,448; Level 2 – 67,458; Level 3 – 42,564; Level 4 – 37,513. Praise God for this amazing work! He has been our great help and encourager in the ministry despite on-going political turmoil and unrest.

BES material has been a great compliment to the Emmaus courses; this is because as the children study and complete the Bibletime booklets, the parents get the opportunity to learn the Scriptures

through the Emmaus courses. We thank and praise God for this provision, and we very much appreciate the great work Bible Educational Services trustees and supporters do to make these invaluable lessons available freely to our children. Thank you for helping us impact the next generation for the kingdom of God.

Prayer Points

- Please pray for 250,000 C Series booklets which have just been despatched from Revival Movement.

Rwanda

Aminadab

We have 300 churches and 65 schools using the Bibletime material at the moment and have just completed the translation of the Bibletime lessons into Kinyarwanda (A1-A6). We are now hoping to translate, edit and print the A7-A12 booklets, which are due to start very soon. We are also due to hold a BES camp in December and we are excited about the many children who will attend and hear about God's work and plan for them.

Prayer points:

- Please pray for the marking of the booklets and for a new printer to help with production of the Bibletime resources.
- Please pray for a method of transport (car or motorbike) to be made available to help with the transportation of the BES material.

Angola

Brian and Debbie Howden

Brian reports "We currently have two groups, totalling 105 children, aged 7-8, who use the Bibletime Portuguese booklets, and we have a small team of adults helping with the construction of new classrooms. Life is incredibly busy trying to keep up with the logistics and support of a team of 14 workers. We are maintaining 5 bible study groups plus other assembly commitments, and just trying to live in the confusion of Angola".

South Africa

Marlon and Judy Govender

Marlon and Judy have been working in South Africa with BES material for many years. In the Summer, Marlon had a very successful meeting with a ministry called Reach For Life. This ministry has Government backing and as a result they have access to hundreds of primary schools. Following on from that meeting, he did a presentation on the BES material to hundreds of pastors at a conference ran by them, which was very successful. This has resulted in the Reach For Life ministry embracing and distributing 2400 Bibletime booklets to many of the Sunday schools in churches in the rural areas of South Africa. The Bibletime material has been greatly received and it is planned that larger numbers are to be distributed via them in the very near future.



Judy with a delivery of lessons.

North East Congo

Revival Movement have just shipped over 275,000 French booklets in association with Every Day Publications for use in local churches seeking to reach and disciple children.

Prayer Points

- Please pray for the safe arrival of the container in Lubumbashi.

ZAM

(Central African Mission)

The team at ZAM in Germany are using French Bibletime resources in the following countries with their co-workers; Chad, Congo, Central African Republic, Niger, Gabon and Ivory Coast. They have requested the next print run from Revival Movement of 1,300,000 booklets for distribution throughout Africa. We praise God for these partnerships, opportunities and value prayer for resources to fulfil the requests.



Students in Gabon.

Tanzania

David and Elizabeth Ombeni

The Swahili translation is on-going and is taking some time to complete. We have delivered close to 8000 A4 Bibletime lessons to a school in Arusha, and we are scheduled to deliver more materials to a church in Arusha during November. Praise God for the enthusiasm of the children and teachers from this region to learn about God through Bibletime! We have now nearly distributed all of the C series, but unfortunately, the pace of the translation and proofreading of the A series has been slow since June. The potential in Tanzania for the use

of Swahili Bibletime lessons is tremendous. We are trusting that in 2018 the A Series can be completed, printed and shipped to Tanzania to meet some of the many churches and schools that are requiring Swahili Bibletime.

Prayer Points

- Please pray for a more productive November and December in relation to editing the A series Bibletime lessons.
- Praise God for the progress made editing the A1-A6 Teachers Guidelines.
- Please pray for Liz as she seeks to coordinate this in the midst of looking after a young child.

Egypt

Aymen Habeb

Ayman has been translating Bibletime booklets into Arabic and Tamas has been doing the graphic design. We are pleased to say the first six months lessons are now completed. We look forward to them being available for printing, and for downloading from the BES website.

Pan African Brethren Mission Conference 2017

Stephen Gillham

Stephen Gillham had the privilege of attending this year's PAN African Conference where 150 delegates, from all over Africa, attended the Conference in Addis Ababa for a week. He said "It was a very thrilling time. It was a privilege to meet up with some of our BES Co-ordinators and to speak to others who had heard about our material and wanted samples. It looks like we might have further contacts with Zimbabwe, Angola, and Burundi. The impression is that Africa is wide open to the Gospel and so many churches have a real heart to reach the next generation. Our Bibletime materials are one of the few which are spiritually sound and interestingly produced. The Conference was a great success and I am sure will have implications for the future in many places."



Stephen Gillham (left) at the Pan African Mission Conference.

Editors Note & Final Thought

Editors Note

Stephen Gillham

The Editorial work continues and we anticipate being able to complete three years of the revised Level 1 in eight pages by the Summer of 2019. Our Designer is now working on Level 1 A5 booklet which will have 96 pages rather than the original 48, incorporating the new Level 1 lesson. The other exciting development is that Revival Movement have now obtained a printing press that can print our booklets in colour. Previously, the cover has been in colour, but the pages inside have just been in black and white. This will make the booklets far more attractive. It will mean a lot of work to produce the new templates, but we see that this is the way forward and we value prayer as Steve McDonald takes the lead in this. Please pray for our Designers as they work so hard on many Bibletime materials in different languages and in different formats.



The editorial team at work.

In September at our Trustees Meeting we welcomed Stuart Price, as mentioned in the Summer BES News. We were also able to welcome for the first time to our Trustees Meeting Andy Street. Andy recently retired as a long-standing Trustee and Director of Echoes of Service to the work of BES. He now lives in Cardiff in his semi-retirement and we are pleased to welcome him to the BES Board. Unfortunately, Judith McKeown, at the same Meeting informed the Trustees that she felt that she was no longer able to include the BES Trustees work into her busy programme with her GLO Training Course and her sensing God's will for her future life in His service. We are grateful to Judith for all that she has done in supporting BES work. The Trustees are due to meet again in February 2018 and would value prayer as they seek to know their way forward for 2018 and the priorities for that year.



Andy Street and his wife Lis.



Silver Servers

www.silver-servers.org



Silver Servers is a new independent initiative aimed at encouraging grandparents to use the Bibletime lessons to help their grandchildren learn of God's wonderful love and how precious they are to him. You can help support this project by signing up to the newsletter on their website (www.silver-servers.org), and by liking and following their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/silver-servers58). If you are a grandparent please consider becoming a Silver Server, there is detailed page on how to go about this on their website (www.silver-servers.org/how-it-works).

Final Thought

In view of all that has been happening in Africa, the words of Ephesians 3: 20 and 21 seem appropriate.

“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think according to the power at work within us to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations for ever and ever Amen.” (ESV)

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BES Ireland supports BES UK as able.

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The next issue of BES news, due Summer 2018, will focus on Europe.

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