



BES news

# The Americas & Australia

Winter 2018

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The International BES Conference has proven to be a huge catalyst in the past for the promotion of Bibletime around the world, especially in the Spanish speaking world, and the African continent. Our prayer is that the Conference in 2019 will be no different and that the BES family will have a greater impact on the world than ever before!

**BES International Conference:**  
Monday 22nd April – Sunday 28th April 2019

Would you consider contributing towards travel costs or sponsoring an international delegate, so they could attend the BES Conference in April 2019? Please contact BES if you would like to donate.

**Save the Date!**  
International Conference  
Reporting Night

**137** delegates from 49 countries  
planning to attend the BES conference

**65** countries  
are using Bibletime around the world

Bibletime is available in  
**40** languages  
many of which are on the BES website

[besweb.com](http://besweb.com)

**16,700** children  
completing Bibletime in their schools in Ireland

**1.2** million Bibletime booklets printed and shipped by Revival Movement (Jan-Sept 2018)

## Introduction

Stephen Gillham

It is nearly 20 years since Pete and Elaine Smith moved from the UK to Canada and commenced Postal Bible School work there which later spread into the USA and has become a major work in North America. Five years ago, Mark and Joanne Grattan commenced a Postal Bible Centre in Houston. This later spread into the USA and as reported below has developed considerably.

The expansion in the last four years in Brazil has been as a result of the hard work of the Team translating Bibletime into Portuguese. Bibletime is being widely used and with the B Series translation nearly completed, this will have another positive impact on the growth across the land.

The West Indies has seen an interesting development particularly with the schools in St. Lucia. There are other interested groups in some of the South American countries where the work is in its infancy. For example, between November 2017 and November 2018, 579 Bibletime booklets were downloaded from the BES website in Argentina, Columbia, Nicaragua, Peru and Paraguay, potentially reaching 12,089 children with the Word of God. We pray that the BES Conference will help us to establish new centres in these countries and reach many more children.



## Australia

PSSM Mailbox Club - Terri Good

PSSM Mailbox Club was originally formed 85 years ago on October 30th, 1933 by Miss Edith Davies, a Distance Education Teacher. She saw the opportunity to share the Bible with isolated students throughout Australia and followed God's leading. Due to the sheer size of Australia and lack of communities in central areas of Australia, the nearest Church may be several hours drive from a person's home. PSSM Mailbox club formed and grew into what it is now: an inter-church organisation that is reaching people with Biblical material by correspondence, via post or online. Each student is provided with a personal teacher who, through mail/email contact, is able to provide spiritual advice and encouragement to them. One of our parents from Western Australia recently wrote, "We are thrilled with the content of the Bibletime course and love that the children can correspond with someone, by mail, who also loves the Lord and encourages them in His ways."

After many years of using the same material, we decided to look for new courses for our students, and in 2017 we began to trial Bibletime. We found these to be of a very high standard, allowing students to delve deeper into God's Word. The BES booklets have been in circulation since the beginning of 2018 in Australia and there has been a great response from our students. We have seen particular strong growth in usage from prisoners. One prisoner, aged 37, says "I would like to thank you for sending me Bibletime, it means so much to me in my life. Without Jesus I was a wreck. I hit a brick wall. Jesus and I knocked down that wall and He helped me use those bricks to build a brand-new path to life. The more bricks placed on this new wall, the more they will make me stronger. Thank you and God bless."

Our teachers are committed Christian men and women from various backgrounds who minister to the students in their classes through their letters and prayer. Sarah from Queensland says "I have just joined a Bible study group using Bibletime. They are all so passionate for Jesus and so encouraging. We were looking at Luke 12. It is amazing to think, if He cares for the birds so much, how much more does He care for His children!"

Praise God for 85 years of operation of PSSM Mailbox Club in Australia, and because of it, many people have learnt of, and put their trust in, the Lord Jesus Christ.

# Brazil

**Interlink - Aramis DeBarros**  
**HoraBíblica - Alexandre Torres**

We praise God for the arrival of Bibletime in Brazil! These booklets have been a blessing to thousands of children and adolescents, and a tremendous Bible tool for the teaching of Christian values to Brazilian children by committed evangelists and youth leaders around the country.

Bibletime in Portuguese was first distributed in Brazil by the Interlink Missionary Agency and HoraBíblica in late 2014. The translation work has been coordinated by Alexandre Torres and his wife, Geovana, from HoraBíblica. They have a new team of translators, who are young believers, and all very enthusiastic in wanting to serve the Lord. Sueli, an Interlink director, co-ordinates their distribution center of Gospel literature and helps with getting the material through customs. The graphic work itself lays in the hands of Aramis DeBarros, a designer who works as a missionary for Revival Movement Association. Aramis works full-time from his home office in the city of Lorena, in the East part of São Paulo state. One of the greatest challenges the team now faces is to get the B series Bibletime booklets prepared and ready for printing at the end of December.

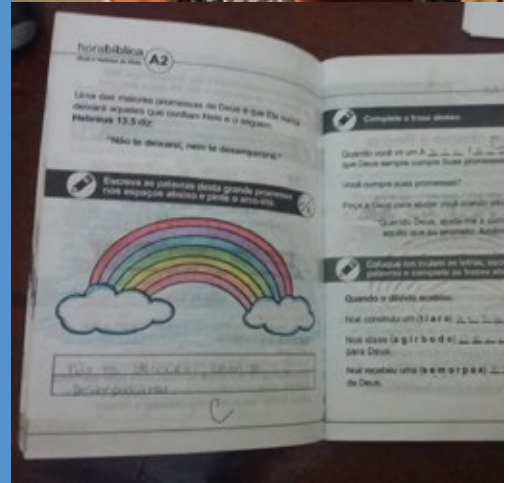
With a population of almost 210 million people the task of distributing the Bibletime booklets and reaching many communities has been a challenge. Alexandre and his small team have two distribution centres within Brazil; one in their house in São Paulo state and the other in a rented storage facility in Manaus. From each of these strategic locations they can serve many diverse communities, reaching youngsters in the dangerous favelas (slums) of Rio de Janeiro, street children in São Paulo city, Indian kids in the Amazon region, and middle-class families living in the richest cities of Brazil. Praise God that thousands of youngsters have been reached, instructed and transformed by the attractive teachings of Bibletime.

Growth in the Bibletime work and usage has been enormous since 2016. Bibletime is now being taught in public and private schools in the states of Paraná, Minas Gerais, Espírito Santo, Goiás, São Paulo, Ceará and the Amazon. For example, In the Amazon, over 8000 youngsters, mainly Indian children, complete the Bibletime booklets at school, and there is more interest in the material every day.

There is great excitement about the expansion of Bibletime into prisons. Currently, Cleber, who is an ex-prisoner himself, works in this area of ministry and has over 300 prisoners studying the Bible and using the Level 4 Bibletime booklets to help them with this. However, he has recently had a meeting with the Director from The Social Educational Institute who loved the Bibletime booklets and has granted the use of Bibletime for all juvenile offenders in detention. This is huge and very exciting for Bibletime in Brazil!

Brazil has also just elected a Conservative president who wants to restore Christian values in the country especially amongst the children. Many Christians believe that President Bolsonaro will open the doors of the public schools for Bible teaching. If this expectancy is confirmed, the schools and Church in Brazil may need a huge supply of Bibletime booklets for the coming years!

Please pray for God's protection over the entire team and all of those involved in translating, designing, teaching and distributing Bibletime in Brazil as the work continues to expand across the region at such a fast pace!



## Canada

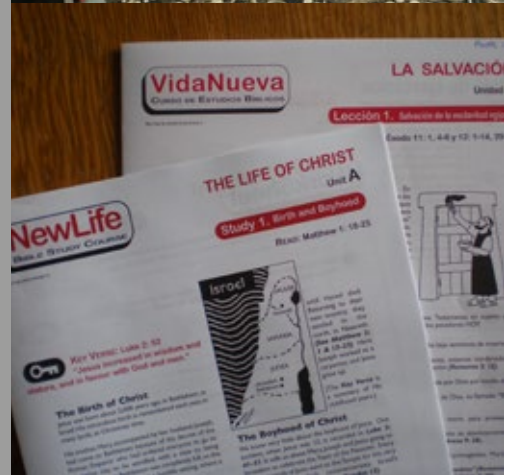
Pete and Elaine Smith

As we reflect on the ongoing work of PBS here in Canada, we can truly say, 'The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad' (Psalm 126: 3). We are so thankful that our God has met every need, whether that's for new teachers, the monthly expenditure, the work load of the office or the daily strength to serve Him. We have just received a letter from a thankful mum, who was letting us know her children would now be finishing, after 10 years of doing the PBS lessons. She wrote, "We want to thank you so much for your faithful service over the many years we have been participating in PBS. Your ministry is truly valuable because it will have eternal rewards. We are so grateful for the Biblical knowledge our children have received from your ministry."

This autumn we completed our English revision of the NewLife Bible Studies and are very pleased with how they have been improved both in content and appearance. After many hindrances and discouragements, we are at last making steady progress with the Spanish NewLife project incorporating the latest English revisions into the new Spanish work, so it will be completely up to date. We look to the Lord to bless it's use across Central and South America, as well as in Spain, in 2019, God willing.

### Prayer Requests for Canada:

- God's blessing upon approximately 2100 students and our 259 teachers, plus office team.
- For preparations for the Manitoba Winter Fair Booth held 25th-30th March 2019.
- That new 'satellite' PBS centres will be established in Ontario, Canada & in the USA.
- The completion of the Spanish NewLife Bible Studies project.
- The planned redesigning and upgrading of our website.



## St Lucia

Pete and Elaine Smith

Last April, while visiting again the Caribbean island of St. Lucia, I took the opportunity to approach several schools, where I had spoken in a morning assembly, about using the 6-month Bibletime booklets in their Religious Education lessons. At the time just one was using them. Most encouragingly, 13 more schools said they wished to use them, including two comprehensive secondary schools, two primary schools with over 500 students and a small rural primary school. There are seven schools in the north and seven in the south of the island who will be using them as part of their R.E. curriculum, during this current school year. Some 5100 booklets were printed and shipped by Revival Movement, along with Teaching Guidelines, in September and approximately 3800 were distributed to the schools in late October. Please pray that two schools in Castries, will also grant permission when we revisit them, God willing, during our next visit in January 2019. We're praying that these 14 schools will want to continue receiving them in the future and that we may be able to promote Bibletime to more new schools when we're on the island.

## Houston PBS

Caroline Philip

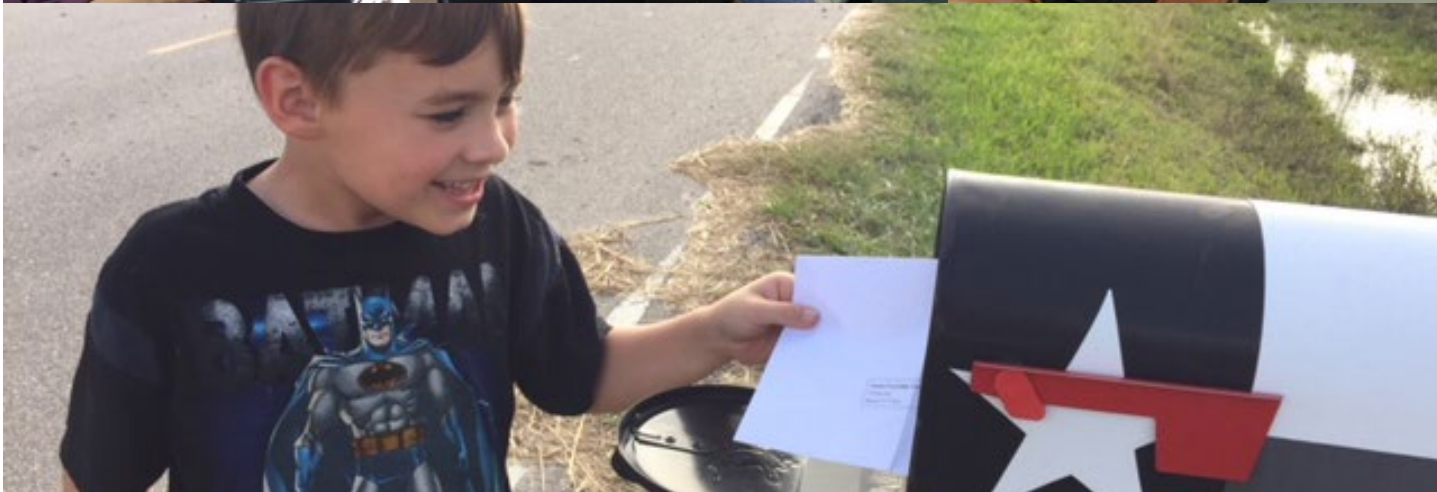
Houston PBS, formed in 2014, is still a relatively new PBS but has recently seen some changes as they said goodbye to Mark and Joanne Grattan in August. They have moved to Michigan for a year as Mark embarks on a mission aviation maintenance course. The work is now coordinated by Caroline Philip who has stepped into the role of administrator organizing PBS for the 2018/19 year. Ronnie and Mary Philip, along with daughters Salome and Stephanie, have taken responsibility for printing the Bibletime booklets each month and various support tasks. Prayer is appreciated for Houston PBS especially with the transition of roles and for energy, passion and wisdom for the new team as they all balance their PBS work 'on the side' with full time jobs.

Caroline says, "There are currently just over 150 students with 9 teachers marking Bibletime. However, recently, a 'lifestyle blogger' shared about the availability of the Bibletime resource for preschoolers on social media and as a result there has been an increase in Level 0 students. This is so encouraging to see; pray for these little ones and their parents to know and understand the Gospel. We are also encouraged that the biggest class overall is now Level 3 as many of the early students have progressed through the Levels. Students will shortly be selecting their prizes from a prize list using the points they have earned by completing lessons through the past year. Pray this will go smoothly for the new team and that it will be an encouragement to the students.

Below are two testimonies from a brother and sister who share their experience with Houston PBS:

Jonathan (age 12) says, ***"I enjoy learning about the Bible through Postal Bibletime lessons! It makes learning easier through activities like a crossword puzzle and fill in the blanks. I have advanced multiple levels. I like how Bibletime gets harder and also teaches more in depth and how to apply things to daily life."***

Hannah (age 8) says, ***"I enjoy PBS because I like the colouring. I also like the puzzles. I get excited when I get them. I normally do it on Saturdays because I have lots of time. I can't wait for the next Bibletime lesson."***



# Emmaus International and BES

Dubuque Iowa, USA – Terry Wilson

The ministry of Emmaus International began in 1942 with one simple, but profound objective: to inspire and equip disciples of Jesus Christ to know, love and live out God’s Word. What began as a long-distance teaching ministry in the United States has grown into countless locations and applications around the world. Emmaus courses are available in 108 countries and in more than 80 languages across the globe. We partner with over 1200 course coordinators worldwide to bring the gospel to the lost and to help believers grow in their faith. Most courses are in print, but they also have been broadcast on the radio and are accessible online as digital eCourses. More recently, courses are being added to a newly created mobile App to spread the truth of God’s Word to new places every month.

Many of our international partners use the Bibletime materials alongside the Emmaus courses. We share the same doctrinal position as BES and see great value in our partnership with them. Many of our current students are looking for material for their children and the Bibletime resources fill that need perfectly, introducing youngsters to the truth of God’s Word early. We also see a very natural progression for young people who have studied God’s Word with Bibletime to continue their studies with Emmaus courses. We continue to look for new ways to work together for God’s glory in the USA as well as other parts of the world. Thanks to the faithful partners of BES in Ireland and elsewhere, God’s Word is being used to change hearts and lives.

About one and a half million Emmaus courses are distributed annually. But just like BES, our goal is not just to see students complete courses. Our vision is to see hearts and lives transformed for Jesus Christ through the study of the Word of God.

### Prayer requests:

- We pray that the Lord would continue to guide and bless our ministries and that we would be responsive to His leading.
- Millions of Emmaus courses and Bibletime materials are distributed every year, but the opportunities to reach many more are even greater. We pray that the Lord would continue to open new doors to present His Word.



## SunScool App for Children

Nikolay Abkairova, USA

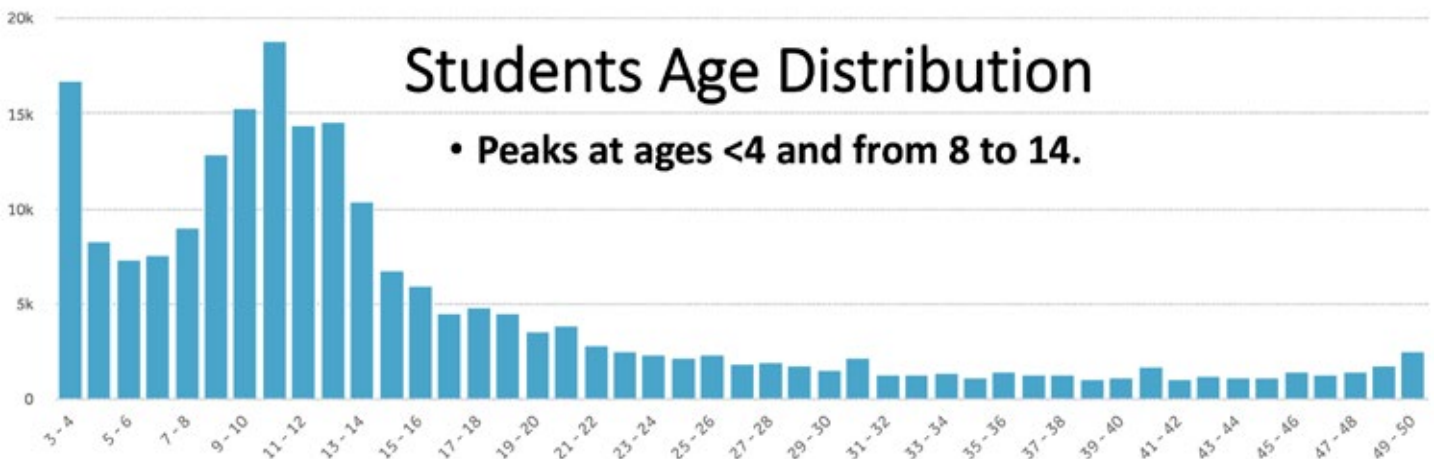
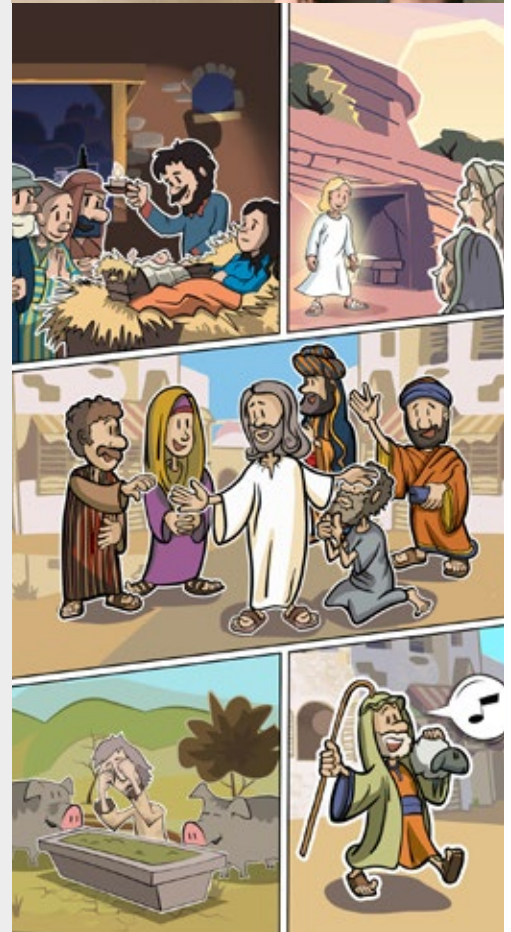
This summer, our team had a great time of fellowship and working together at a 1-week off-site resort near St. Petersburg, Russia. We did some hiking and other outside team building activities with our families. It is very valuable for us, as most of the team are scattered across the globe, and many of us work remotely and rarely see each other and so we praise the Lord for this opportunity.

Over the last 2 years, our team has grown to more than 10 people, who have worked to produce 14 exciting modules in 12 different languages based on the Bibletime material. We are currently working on more and are constantly looking at how to engage children in a new and exciting way to bring the Bible to life. We are thankful to the Lord for the children that use the App: with some Google ads, each month we have around 5000 new users who finish at least 1 session, and 800 who finish all 14, spending on average 5-7 hours to achieve that. Most of these children are from Europe and Latin America.

70-84% of our users using the App in the Ukrainian, Croatian, Spanish, Romanian, Russian and Portuguese languages, finish the entire module once they have started it, while other languages have significantly lower persistence around 55% - so we have some work to do to improve it. We are also encouraged to see that the App is used not just by our main age group (7-13) but by teens and adults as well.

We are currently working on a new set of introductory lessons, which will teach children at a very basic level on who God is, on prayer, on the Bible, and on sin & salvation. We would appreciate your prayers for us to complete and release these modules in all the current languages.

Please also pray for the Chinese translation, as we are having a difficult time reaching out to Chinese-speaking children. We are not yet able to publish SunScool in the Chinese App stores due to governmental limitations.



## Interns

Two interns from Austria are with us at the BES office in Enniskillen until February 2019. Hanna and Miriam are linking the Bibletime stories with Free Bible Images. They are researching which images best suit the relevant Bibletime story and these hyperlinks will eventually be inserted into the Teaching Guidelines and be available for direct download from the BES website.



## International Prayer Corner

Some points for praise and prayer

### 1. Schools Ministry

- Possibility of schools in Brazil using Bibletime material.
- The BES Co-ordinators in Romania and Moldova are in discussions with the Ministry of Education trying to get Romanian Bibletime into the schools in both countries.
- Our Co-ordinator in Rwanda has had a very good contact with the Ministry of Education and we are waiting for full permission to produce material for possibly 3 million school children in Rwanda. This would be a major project but could have a massive impact on the youth of Rwanda.

### 2. Printing and Distribution

- Arabic - BES have helped to print Bibletime in Arabic. Please pray for training and distribution of the material.
- Farsi - The A Series is now complete in Farsi. Please pray for ways in which the booklets could be used with Farsi speaking children across the world.

### 3. Translation

- Pray for on-going translation work in Amharic, Oromo, Falm Chin, Burmese, Chinese and Swahili.



## Final Thought

Stuart Price

**Ebenezer:**

***Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the Lord has helped us." 1 Sam 7: 12***

Samuel set the stone "Ebenezer" to commemorate the Lord's help "Thus far has the Lord helped us". We'd all agree that it is very important to recognise the Lord's hand and give him thanks, but there's something else. The implication is that the stone was planted in a prominent place on the road between Mizpah and Shen, so that passers-by saw and remembered every time they travelled that road.

I think the stone not only leads to thanks for past victories, it also encourages faith for future challenges. Regularly revisiting these "Ebenezers" fuels faith and enriches our walk as we face continual trials and opportunities in the years ahead.

There's an old Chinese proverb; **"May you live in interesting times"**

Here's a Christian blessing; **"May you plant many "Ebenezers" in 2019"**

## Contact BES

**Registered BES Office:**

c/o Vicky Gawn, 37a Belmore Street,  
Enniskillen,  
Northern Ireland, BT74 6AA

**Telephone:** 028 6632 2462

**Email:** [info@besweb.com](mailto:info@besweb.com)

**UK BES Trustees:** Sam Balmer, Stephen Gillham, Allison Hill, Stuart Price, Andy Street, Stephen Walls.

**Editor and Secretary of Trust:**

Stephen Gillham – [stephen@sgillham.co.uk](mailto:stephen@sgillham.co.uk)

**International Secretary:**

Sam Balmer - [sam@besweb.com](mailto:sam@besweb.com)

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The next edition of BES news  
is Summer 2019 reporting on  
Bibletime in Asia

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