



**As promised, we are focusing in the Summer BES News on Asia and the development of Bibletime in eight Asian countries. We can praise God for the devoted and hard working Christians who have a vision to reach the children of these countries with Bibletime materials.**

The BES Trustees have been involved in travelling this year and so, we are also including reports of visits made to Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Romania and Brazil. These are up to date accounts of what God is doing in these countries and the prayer needs, following the visits that have been made.

## India

*Bejoy and Lily Thudian*

There are major opposing issues to the gospel in India, namely idol worship, illiteracy, poverty, spiritual darkness and above all the caste system. According to the government, India's population of 1.21 billion is 80% Hindu and 3% Christian. The Bharatiya Janata Party that rules India have said that by the 31 Dec 2021, they intend to declare India a Hindu country.

However, BES India, co-ordinated by Bejoy and Lily, and helped by Biju, Rejoy and Mini, is thriving despite them facing the continual threat of persecution in this spiritually dark country. Translation and design has already taken place or is currently taking place in Malayalam, Hindi, Telugu, Odia (Oriya), Bengali and Tamal and most are at the final corrections or printing stage. Some printing of the A Series A5 booklets has taken place using local Indian printers in Malayalam and Hindi but this is limited due to capacity and climate. Most of the booklets being printed are by Revival

Movement in Northern Ireland and shipped to India. All the translation work for the Teaching Guidelines (A1-A12) into Hindi is finished, most of which has been done by Lilly and Mini. Hindi is still the official language of India.

Bejoy writes "So far this year we have distributed 410 English Bibletime booklets and 335 Malayalam Bibletime booklets. Students in 10 states across India are using Bibletime lessons. More than 25,000 children are studying Bibletime in Malayalam, English and Bengali throughout India. Praise God!"

Twenty-seven years ago, 1,000 Gideon Bibles were burnt outside a Hindu temple in India. Sam George (Indian) had a vision to rescue 1,000 children from the streets, build a Christian school with 1,000 pupils, put

1,000 trainees through Bible school and build a church with 1,000 attendees. He and his wife, Elizabeth, are well on their way to fulfilling this vision. They now run a Bible college, an orphanage and school with 800 students. All of the school children use Bibletime lessons.

Damaraj who lectures in a Bible school helps translate levels three and four of the Bibletime lessons into Malayalam (a language spoken predominantly in Kerala, South India); he translates the lessons while travelling on the train, to and from work. He uses Bibletime with about 30 young people from very poor homes, where nearly all their fathers are alcoholics. The parents say the young people keep the Bibletime booklet in better condition than their school books! He lives in a house surrounded by seven temples.





## Hot off the press...

### Indian summer camps with tribal children!

Bejoy Thudian



During April and May we conducted "Vacation Bible Classes" in different parts of Kerala. 1660 children attended these classes held in 21 different places in Wayanad, Idukki and Kottayam. In Wayanad the classes were held among the tribal children in Kammana, Vadakkanad, Aadikolly, Bathery, Chekadi and Pothuketty. The Missionaries of Tribal Mission India helped us to reach these areas.

Jeeps were used to transport children to the venue where the two-day classes were held. The first day started with prayer, followed by songs, the Bibletime lesson being taught to everyone, tea time, small group work, games and lunch. And in the afternoon, we sang songs, the Bibletime lesson was again taught to all of the children, followed by small group work, games and then tea. On the second day at the end of the program, each child received a small gift of a pencil/pen pouch and sweets.

Many of the tribal children start smoking, chewing tobacco and drinking at a very young age. Girls are exploited physically and then abandoned. Many of them give birth even before they are 18. So it was a great challenge to convey the message to them. But God blessed us with the required number of teachers and volunteers and we were able to teach them the Bible stories and tell them about the moral values of the Bible and the love of God.



We thank all those who supported us through their prayers and finances. A few months back when we decided to conduct these meetings we were unsure how it could be accomplished. But we prayerfully went forward believing that God would complete His work. And amazingly, we saw God's providence at each and every moment. We need your prayers for all the children, their families, the tribal missionaries and for all those who supported us. Please pray that the seeds sown will not go in vain.

## Cambodia

Bejoy Thudian

According to Bejoy, the A Series Bibletime booklet translation is progressing very slowly. They are facing problems with the language, because the Bible that they have now is in an old script that is 100 years old, so the new generation have difficulties in understanding it. BES India has sent 1,200 English Bibletime booklets to Cambodia. Now they are beginning to use those in schools and orphanages.

## Myanmar (Burma)

Timothy Sui Lain Mang



Timothy Sui Lain Mang has been in Christian ministry since 1981, and has seen how effective and important Children's ministry can be, especially when it comes to the formation of churches in Myanmar (Burma). He visited the UK in 2015 and found the BES material in one of the churches he attended. Once back in Chin State, commonly known as a "Christian State" as it is home to 61% of Christians, Timothy

contacted BES via their website and after many discussions through email and Skype, BES gave him permission to translate the Bibletime Lessons into Burmese and Falam Chin. The translation work began in 2016 but due to other commitments, the progress has been slow. He is currently translating the Bible into Falam Chin which he hopes he will finish in summer 2017. It is then that Timothy plans to be able to commit all his time to translating the BES Bibletime Lessons.

Timothy has formed a committee for the Bibletime translation project, which comprises of three Burmese translators, two Falam Chin translators and himself, as Editor of both languages. He has advertised the Bibletime Resources on the internet and in local magazines and he has had a positive response from many of the local Christian families. The Biblical School of Theology has also provided him with a room for the BES ministry.

Timothy writes "Our goal is to finish translating all of the Bibletime lessons in both Burmese and Falam Chin this year and to begin to conduct a school in early 2018. I am excited about this translation work. Already seven Bible Colleges and nine Churches have contacted us and told us that they will be very happy to use the materials for children once we have it ready. The Bibletime lessons in Burmese will be able to be used by all churches over Myanmar, and the translated lessons into Falam Chin can be used by the local churches and groups in Chin state. When the Bibletime lessons are ready to be used, I am confident that they will be a great blessing to the churches here in Myanmar."

## Pakistan

Peter Calvin

Peter reports, "The Christian Publishing House (MIK) was established in Pakistan in 1947, providing Christian books for all age groups. About two years ago, after careful study, MIK decided to make BES material available in Urdu. Initially, we chose A Series (Level 3) and 5,000 copies of the first two booklets, covering the first year, were published in December 2016.

To teach how to use the BES material properly, MIK has conducted several training seminars for Sunday School teachers and teachers in Christian schools. Overall, they are very enthusiastic about the Bibletime course but are slow in taking the necessary concrete steps. So far, we have distributed several hundred copies among the various ministries which is somewhat disappointing, but since this way of

teaching is relatively new here, we realize that it will take some time and further effort for the Bibletime course to get off the ground.”

One teacher commented, “Bibletime is a must! As well as being practical, informative and very applicable to present day life, it is also very lively and interesting. I want to use it in my teenage girls’ groups.”



#### Prayer Items

- Many Churches will understand the need for investing in children’s lives.
- That Sunday School teachers will prepare diligently and teach Bibletime in the best way.
- That the parents will play a key role in encouraging their children to attend classes regularly.
- Pray especially that parents will help their children to take care of their Bibletime booklets.
- That Christian schools will include the BES material in their Christian Studies curriculum.

## Mongolia

*Andreas Reh*

Andreas Reh writes “It is on my heart that one day we would have BES in Mongolian, but at this point we do not even have a translator. I have just returned from Mongolia a few days ago and will visit Mongolia again in November. It is a prayer item that the Lord would give us an able translator to start working on Mongolian BES courses.”

## Nepal

In Nepal, Bejoy is in touch with an Orphanage with 280 young people some of whom are doing English Bibletime lessons but they are keen to get the Nepalese materials. Pratibha works for The Fonic Trust and she is currently translating the Bibletime material into Nepalese. She has already translated the A and B Series.

## China

Over 1 billion people speak Chinese around the world as their first language and in 2016 it was decided to commence translation of Bibletime into simple Chinese. Simple Chinese is more widely used amongst children than traditional Chinese. There is a long-term plan for the translation of the Bibletime series, and it is hoped that it will be completed at the end of 2019. The challenging aspect for the translation and design of the Bibletime lessons is the complexity and delicacy of the writing. For example, if the letters or figures within the sentences are cut at the wrong parts, then the meaning of the sentence will be completely different, so the design of the Bibletime lesson on the page must be constructed carefully!

## Philippines

*David and Ruth Harvey*

David and Ruth have over 340 children in 2 schools using the Bibletime lessons weekly for their Christian Education classes and Bibletime is also being used in 2 Sunday Schools. One of the Sunday Schools is 100km north of Manila and has just requested copies of the entire curriculum, and the other Sunday School has classes of 50 students and has been using them for a while. Although the lessons are in English, the students are enjoying using them. The Teaching Guidelines have recently been sent to them, so they are hoping that these will be a significant help to use alongside the lessons. David and Ruth are struggling to get the Bibletime resources into schools, mainly because of issues with Border Customs if the lessons are printed outside of the country, and lack of appeal to students if they are printed in black and white within the Philippines. However, David writes that “We are encouraged to note that as additional fellowships get acquainted with the curriculum, other assemblies are inquiring about the possibility of using the lessons.”



## Japan

*Alessandro Esposito*



In 2015, I arrived in Japan to work in an International School in Tamamura teaching Bible lessons to kindergarten and elementary aged children. The school is operated by a small assembly of about 20 brethren. On weekends and holidays, we do Gospel outreach in several areas of the Kanto region. I am also involved in preaching and teaching as well as music in our assembly.

I did not serve the Lord full time until 2010 when I resigned from my secular job as a Robot Programmer and moved to the UK to continue with my Bible Studies and learn the English Language. Following that I spent 18 months in Zambia as a missionary reaching out to young people in both cities and villages through music and sport. I then travelled to Chennai, India and lived there for 3 years working with the Christian Missions Charitable Trust. It was during this time that I met Bert and Wendy Gray, the founders of BES. In 2015, just before I was about to move to Japan, during a missionary conference in Rome, I met Samuel Balmer who introduced me to BES. God’s timing is always perfect! In fact, after I checked the BES website, I realized that they had what I needed for my new mission in Japan, and I immediately adopted their curriculum for my lessons. Since August 2015, I’ve been using this tremendous tool to teach Bible lessons in our elementary school. The material is useful and faithful to the Scriptures, and the UK BES staff are always available for help, despite the distance. The Lord is using the Bibletime lessons to touch the lives of many kids in Japan. I am grateful to the Lord for meeting brother Samuel at the right time.

The Bibletime curriculum is such a helpful tool for my lessons in the elementary school.



The lesson starts with a prayer, then the introduction of the topic and the presentation of the story. A few of the following tools are used to help students become familiar with the story: International Children's Bible, The Action Bible, Free Bible Images website, Bible for Kids app, The Beginner's Bible and SunScool app. After getting to know the story, the students start working with the Bibletime material, assisted by the teacher, as most of them come from a non-Christian background and use English as a second language. Once they complete their work, a game like Hangman or Sword Drill, is played to help them memorize key verses, and children in the lower grade section sing Bible songs as well. Through the Bibletime worksheets, students clearly understand the meaning of salvation and how to live a life that pleases God. The Teacher's Guidelines are very helpful and make the lesson flow smoothly, as they contain many ideas and wise advice. Through Bibletime, I too am learning and enjoying studying the Bible. I want to thank all those who worked hard to make Bibletime available to us. Be assured that the Lord is blessing this amazing work.



### Please pray:

- That I learn Japanese quickly.
- For the spiritual growth of the assembly.
- To see the salvation of many because of the evangelistic outreach.

## Burkina Faso

*Stephen Gillham*



Burkina Faso in West Africa was formerly a French colony where much of the missionary work in the past has been done by French speaking missionaries.

Eddie Martin from West Moors in Dorset suffered a tragic bereavement when his wife was killed in a car accident and in her memory with the contact that Eddie had in Burkina Faso he was able to sponsor the drilling of a well in one of the Burkina Faso villages. Over the last 12 years 85 wells have been drilled. Villages are selected where there is a gospel witness and a church. The drilling of the wells has provided fresh water which has not only improved the health of children and adults but many extra people have moved closer to fresh water and churches are growing rapidly.

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. Stephen Gillham was able to spend 10 days in Burkina Faso training 160 different 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. Please pray for all those who have been trained and all those children in different situations who are using French Bibletime Booklets. Unfortunately, in the villages, many of the children don't speak French so there is less use of our materials.

## Ethiopia

*Sam Balmer & Stephen Gillham*

Sam Balmer and Stephen Gillham spent five days in Ethiopia. It has been a long and difficult journey in translating and designing Bibletime

lessons into Amharic but eventually, last year, a consignment was printed at Revival Movement and sent to Ethiopia. We were able to visit two locations in Addis Ababa for training. One day was spent with 120 teachers from a group of churches and another day spent with 50 or 60 from the Ethiopian Christian Brethren Churches. In both groups there was tremendous enthusiasm and a great desire to use the Booklets again in Churches or Schools particularly in the areas immediately around Addis Ababa. Translation is now under way in Oromo to cover another major language group in Ethiopia.



## Romania

*Stephen Gillham*

Postal Bible School has been established for many years. Stephen Gillham visited the Annual Meeting. It was encouraging to discover increased number of lessons being used (well over 5,000), more Sunday Schools using the lessons, increasing numbers of prisoners using lessons and also an increased number of markers. This is a most encouraging result after years of hard work in Romania by the Association who are responsible. They have just opened the Onesimus Christian Centre which means that children from all over Romania will have the opportunity of going to Camp for a weekend or a week and being taught the Word of God. The potential is tremendous.





## Brazil

Sam Balmer & Stevie Walls



Sam Balmer and Stevie Walls spent 8 days in Brazil during April, mainly with Alexandre. Alexandre and his family are heavily involved in the editing of the translations and have much experience. The A Series on all 4 levels have been translated, designed and printed, and work has begun on the B Series; B1-B6 is nearly finished. Alexandre has produced various leaflets for advertising Bibletime to homes, schools, churches and missionaries and believes that Bibletime lessons are vital to their ministry in Brazil. In the south and in cities the laws restrict the full open use of Bibletime, but opportunities exist by permission to distribute at the school gate and in school goody bags. In the north and particularly Manaus there is a complete open door into the schools and this is something Alexandre wants to develop as opportunity, time and personnel permit. Sam and Stevie met with Sergio, who has been involved in the promotion of Bibletime. He has shared the material with parents at the school gates and four families have come to faith or have been restored through receiving these Lessons and now attend the same church. Sam and Stevie attended a church leaders and pastors breakfast. They gave a presentation to

over 85 people about the BES Resources which resulted in a great "buzz" at the event. They visited many other individuals who are assisting in the translation and usage of the Bibletime lessons throughout Brazil. Sam, Stevie and Alexandre then travelled to Manaus and to the Amazon region where they distributed 1,700 A1-A6 Bibletime Booklets to school children. "The harvest is great but the labourers are few!" God is at work through BES and it is incredible yet again to see children being taught the Word of God consistently.



## Editor's Notes

We have become aware that as the work grows, inevitably we face new challenges. After the production of the 24 A5 Bibletime Booklets it became clear that Schools and Churches overseas using either English or other languages Booklets needed Teaching Guidelines. We set out to produce 12 Teaching Guidelines to accompany the use of the A5 Booklets overseas. These have now been produced and will all shortly be available on our Website.

Most of the content of the Bibletime lessons, apart from Level 1 which we are re-writing, go back 25 years. Times have changed although the message remains the same. With the increasing use of the Bibletime lessons in schools we are looking at language, vocabulary and aims, seeking to be wise in making these suitable for both church and school use. The Editorial Team would value prayer for wisdom and guidance in this project.

After much prayer, the BES Trustees decided that there was a need for additional staff to be working in the BES Office in Enniskillen.

### Glenda Magee – Schools & Resources

Glenda is married to Iain and has two children. Glenda was a teacher of Religious Education

for 13 years but joined the UK office team part time in January 2017, and plays a vital role in the editing of the Teaching Guidelines for schools. She is responsible for assisting with the promotion of Bibletime Lessons in schools and is also part of the Bibletime Editorial Team.

### Angela Johnston - Office Administrator

Angela worked as a volunteer for BES for 3 years before she joined the UK office team part time in January 2017. Angela is married to George. She is responsible for the distribution of BES Resources to the UK and Ireland PBS Centres, the quarterly Worldwide Prayer and Praise Newsletter and many general administrative duties.

### Trustees

We have already paid tribute on the retirement of David Tucker last September. In April 2017, Glyn Davies rendered his resignation as he takes over a major responsibility with another Trust. Glyn has been a tremendous help in the financial and legal side of BES. He was constantly available for advice and counsel in these areas. He will be greatly missed in his contribution to the BES Trustees. We are thankful that Stuart Price has agreed to join us as a BES Trustee. He is married with two grown up sons, and comes to us with wide experience of business management and finance.



Angela and Glenda



Stuart and his wife Susan



## Sunscool is Live!

*The Bibletime App*

Sunscool, the app that brings our Bibletime lessons to smart phones and tablets, is now live with a number of lessons available.

We need to give a huge thank you to Nikolay and his development team who have worked so hard to make this dream a reality and who are still working hard adding new lessons all the time.

We still very much need people to use the app and 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>

## Final Thought

*Allison Hill*

# 'The unfolding of your words gives light'

*Psalm 119: 130*

We live in a spiritually dark world, and Asia is full of deeply religious people who are stumbling in the dark because they follow idols.

The psalmist, however, reminds us that 'the unfolding of your words gives light'. Just imagine what it would be like if you took your Bible off the shelf, opened it up and were suddenly blinded by a brilliant light which filled the whole room and changed your perspective.

We don't have to imagine, because this is the impact that Scripture has, when people turn to it with sincerity. Let us pray that as God's Word is unfolded and opened up to the next generation through Bibletime lessons that 'the light of the gospel' will shine into the lives of the young people who use it, and will transform them into followers of the Lord Jesus, the 'Light of the World'.

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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 Autumn 2017, will focus on Africa.

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