

BES news

ASIA and the BES International Conference

Summer 2019

Resourcing you to reach the next generation - www.besweb.com

In this edition we focus on the spread of BES work in Asia and report on the recent International Conference in Enniskillen, which was such a memorable time for the delegates who attended.

Bibletime is well established in many languages in India. In countries like Cambodia, China, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and South Korea, translation and usage are in their early stages. The growth of the work in Asia needs much prayer and this edition of BES News will enable our readers to pray fervently for specific Asian countries.

Contents

- 1 - International Conference
- 4 - Madlug
- 4 - Nepal
- 5 - Cambodia
- 6 - India
- 7 - Pakistan
- 8 - Other News
& Final Thought



BES International Conference 2019

Praise God! Our prayers have been answered! On 22nd April, 130 workers representing 50 countries, came together in Enniskillen for our 2019 International Conference; a very memorable week of teaching and fellowship.

We sensed God's presence, and there was much inspiration and excitement as we heard what God is doing through Bibletime material around the world. Delegates learned so much from networking and sharing their experiences with one another.

The Conference had a very full programme of practical seminars, training and discussions. Felix Muchimba from Zambia started each day with challenging devotional talks about Integrity, Hope, Reaching Unreached People groups, and Growing and Finishing Well. Some delegates shared their experiences of using Bibletime in Churches, schools, teaching English and through the postal system. This was followed by reflective presentations from a variety of speakers on Considering Ourselves, Considering the World, Considering Leadership, Considering Children, and Considering the Lord. The sessions proved to be inspiring and thought-provoking. The Trustees ensured that every country had the opportunity to meet with them to discuss their concerns and the future development of Bibletime in their region.

Towards the end of the week, we hosted an International Night, where a gathering of "nations, tribes and languages" (Revelation 14) worshipped and praised God. As our co-workers shared reports, personal experiences and prayers, we all felt built up, encouraged and united in a common purpose.

We were pleased to welcome back those who attended previous conferences from countries where the work of BES is well established; such as Brazil, Canada, some CIS Countries, D R Congo, Croatia, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, India, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malaysia, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Spain, South Africa, Tanzania, Turkey, Ukraine, UK and Zambia.

It was good to hear that the work of BES is growing and the numbers of children who are learning about God through Bibletime is increasing. The biggest issues appear to be continuity and demand of Bibletime materials which are outstripping supply. This adds to the pressure already placed on Revival Movement Association. Some countries are struggling to complete translations, some face resistance to the spread of the Gospel, and others face suspicion about the origin of the Bibletime material.





It was lovely to welcome BES ambassadors from countries where the translation, design, printing and distribution of Bibletime is at various stages of development. This is true of Albania, Australia, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Egypt, Italy, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, USA and Zimbabwe. Praise God that a good foundation has been laid for the growth and development of BES work in the future, for example, the printing of the A Series in Arabic and Farsi. Farsi is spoken by an estimated 110 million speakers mostly in Iran, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iraq, Russia, Azerbaijan and Afghanistan.

Some workers attended from countries where the BES work is very small or not even commenced, but there is a vision to see the work grow. We were delighted to have delegates from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, Jamaica, South Korea, and Hong Kong (helping in Chinese translation) who are anxious to see Bibletime being used in their countries.

Overall, there was so much to encourage us. We were very moved by the commitment and dedication of the Bibletime coordinators, often in the face of adversity, to ensure that Bibletime is reaching children in their country. In many cases, Bibletime is filling a gap where there are barely any materials for children's ministry.

We are also thankful for the positive and evolving relationships between BES, Emmaus International, Opal Trust and Sunscool, who all attended the Conference. Our partnership is proving to be very fruitful.

We were pleased that Bert and Wendy Gray were present for the whole conference. Sixty years ago they commenced the work in Southern Ireland, and it was special to celebrate the anniversary with them. We thank God for their vision and dedication over so many years.

We were so grateful to Fermanagh Christian Fellowship (FCF) for making their building available to us for the week, and the many people who helped with catering, mini-bus driving, hosting and in lots of other ways. Without their support, the Conference would not have been possible. We are also thankful to the staff in the BES office who worked so hard to ensure that everything was organised in great detail.

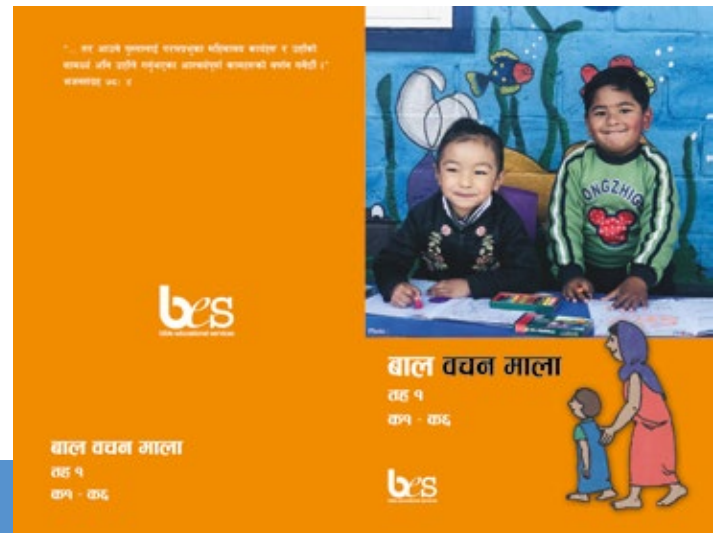
We would value prayer as we consider the impending needs and challenges of each country. We particularly need God's guidance and wisdom as we look to the future in planning for further conferences alongside increasing numbers and rising costs.

Following this Conference, we feel uplifted, encouraged and strengthened in our walk with God. May we continue to lovingly partner with our BES international delegates and organisations to reach the next generation with the knowledge and love of Christ!

MADLUG

(Make A Difference Luggage)

BES decided to partner with Lurgan-based charity MADLUG (Make a Difference Luggage) in order to gift each worker at the Conference with a complimentary backpack. For each backpack purchased, MADLUG donate a bag to a child in care within the United Kingdom. This 'Buy one Give one' initiative pulled on the heart strings of the BES staff. Sam Balmer explains, "90 000 children are in care across the UK and Ireland, and many are forced to carry their belongings in black plastic binbags when travelling between homes. When we learnt that MADLUG were trying to bring dignity and self-worth to these children we decided to join them in making a difference." The BES staff held a fund-raising breakfast in order to purchase one for each delegate. Everyone was thrilled with this gift! Bright blue backpacks were seen throughout Enniskillen during the week of the Conference!



Nepal

by Pratibha

Bibletime in Nepal is in its infancy. The translation into Nepalese across the Series is complete. Pratibha, who has been translating the material says, "The Bibletime booklets catch the attention of a child because of its simple language which makes it easy to understand God's Word and God's plan for our very young readers. We have just printed our first booklet and our aim is to promote these materials in rural parts of Nepal. At present, we are working on printing the first 4 booklets and by the end of Autumn 2019 we will be approaching various Churches with these materials. The work of printing is possible because of generous gifts from our friends in Northern Ireland who are excited and believe in bringing the Good News to the next generation!"

Pratibha has attended two BES International Conferences in Enniskillen and says, "This gathering from various parts of the world really helped and encouraged me as I listened and learned from workers who shared some very challenging stories. I also heard stories of children who were excited to learn more about God's message through the Bibletime booklets. When a child is excited about something at a young age, he or she is going to spread the source of their happiness every day with friends. Nothing is going to stop the child's excitement. The big BES family gathering was a big comfort to me, as I have worked on these lessons alone. God has often chosen people like me, with little experience and spiritual inadequacies, to do great things. I will never be able to understand why He chose me to be involved in this great BES ministry!"

Current projections estimate a demand of over 100,000 Bibletime booklets in Nepal! Please pray for resourcing for this project.

Cambodia

by Insun

Cambodia is infamous for the brutal reign of the Communist Khmer Rouge in the 1970's, killing 2 million people. Cambodia has slowly risen from this devastation and now boasts one of the fastest growing economies in the world, yet it remains one of the poorest countries in Asia. Although Buddhism is the national religion, there is a wide-open door for evangelism and Church planting. The number of Christians and Churches have grown significantly in the last 15 years with the efforts of foreign missionaries and Christian humanitarian work, yet sound teaching of God's Word is very much lacking. Christian literature and resources are scarce.

Insun and Youmi have been serving as missionaries in Cambodia since 2010. Youmi initially came to Cambodia as a missionary child in the 1990's with her parents who were sent from Korea. They served at Sangkhim Canaan School for almost 10 years in Kampong Chhnang which is located 90km north of the capital. Insun has been serving as the country director of Emmaus Cambodia since 2014. At the end of 2017, Insun and Youmi made plans to relocate to the capital city to focus on Emmaus and literature ministry. Around that time their missionary friend went to be with the Lord in an accident, and unexpectedly God led them to step in as new workers at the Church which she started.

Insun writes, "There was a need in our Sunday School for good material, and so we began to translate some Bibletime booklets which had been introduced to us by Bejoy from India a few years ago. We then realised that the BES materials met the need of Cambodian Churches and many children's ministries around Cambodia where more than 50% of the population are less than 25 years old. In April, I received an invitation to attend and participate in the 2019 BES International Conference and learned so much about the BES ministry around the world. Currently, we are working on the translation of Level 0 and 1 Bibletime lessons into Khmer and we plan to print the very first booklet at the end of this year. In May, during an Emmaus Bible seminar, BES was introduced to 60 participants. The feedback from them was very positive and encouraging.

Please pray for translation, printing, publicity, and distribution of lessons in Cambodia."



India

by Bejoy

India has a population of 1.3 billion of which 40% are children and therefore there is great opportunity and responsibility to reach the next generation with the Gospel. India has 29 states, and Bibletime is being used in 25 of those due to the hard work and dedication of Bejoy, his family and co-workers. Bejoy writes, "We praise God for the great vision of Bible Educational Services to reach the millions of children all over the world with the Word of God. We are so privileged to be a part of this ministry. So far, we have reached 130,000 children in India with the Bibletime lessons in English, Malayalam, Hindi and Bengali. Many children have been blessed with using the Bibletime booklets and have become children of God through the studies."

Most of the children in the North Indian states are Hindu and Muslim. God is using the Bibletime resources to reach children with the Gospel in their native languages:

- 40,000 copies of Bibletime in Hindi have been given to children in 1,200 village Churches and orphanages in the state of Bihar. Many children are un-educated, and therefore Bibletime is being used as a tool to teach them Hindi and about God at the same time.
- 8,000 Bibletime booklets have been given out to mission schools and Churches in the state of Chhattisgarh.
- 6,000 children from village Churches received the Bibletime booklets in Madhya Pradesh state.
- 10,000 copies of Bibletime are used in Sunday Schools and mission schools in Utter Pradesh state.

Bejoy says, "This year we were able to distribute 2,300 English Bibletime booklets, and 1,200 Malayalam Bibletime booklets in various Churches and children's clubs in Kerala state. We also sent Bibletime to 300 children who are living in a care home in Nepal, and recently we have dispatched Bibletime to children living in UAE and Bahrain. Progress with translation and printing is going well, and the A Series of Bibletime has been translated and is currently ready for printing in Bengali, Tamil and Telugu. The translation of the B Series is commencing in these languages."

Sam, the Principal of Emmanuel Matric Secondary School, writes, "...thank you for introducing Bibletime to our school. We have been using Bibletime now for the last two years and we have seen it impacting our student body for the good of all. Our students are from various backgrounds and hold different religious beliefs. Bibletime has helped them develop both morally and spiritually. Its content has proved to be one of the best as it is biblically strong as well as contemporary in its approach."

Bejoy continues, "If India is declared a Hindu country it will be a very difficult time for Christians as they face tougher restrictions and opposition. Please pray that they will stand firm in their faith and face the challenges joyfully. We know this is a part of Christian life and ministry, and we know that we are safe in HIS mighty hands. Please continue to pray for the ministries in India."





Pakistan

by Peter

MIK (The Christian Publishing House) printed the first Level 3 Bibletime booklet in Urdu in 2016. By the end of 2018, all Level 3 Bibletime booklets and the associated Teachers' Guidelines across the Series had been completed. At present, there are almost 1,000 children living in Pakistan doing the Bibletime course. Peter says, "Care Channels Learning Centre, an English medium school, started using Bibletime in Urdu in 2017. They have more than 600 children and they would like all of them to do Bibletime as part of their Christian Studies Curriculum. Slowly yet surely, Bibletime is getting introduced to many Churches in Lahore and other parts of Pakistan. Our joy will be to see children, parents, Sunday School teachers and even Church leaders appreciate this valuable resource and use it to grow in their faith."

Riaz, a Sunday School teacher says, "The Bibletime has greatly helped children learn God's Word in an organised and systematic way. Our Church really needed such a course. Now the children not only learn Bible stories but also see God's purpose and plan in these stories." A Sunday School teacher in Lahore comments, "For years we were looking for some solid food for our children's needs. Thank God that Bibletime has fulfilled this. Both children and teachers enjoy using Bibletime. It is user friendly and we have not had any problem using it in our Church." Sana from Bethany Church, says, "We needed, in our Church, a course that we can use like a syllabus over an extended period. Thank God Bibletime has aptly met this need. Praise God for Bibletime. This course has also helped children think creatively; and now they ask many critical questions that reflect their deeper understanding of the Bible."

- **Pray that many more Sunday School teachers, Church leaders and even parents would see the attractiveness and importance of Bibletime in their children's spiritual life.**
- **Pray that MIK will be able to print further levels of Bibletime in English so that schools like CCLC will benefit from them.**
- **Pray that the students doing Bibletime will remain focused, finish their course, grow in their understanding of God's Word, and be equipped to share their faith with their non-Christian friends.**

Other news and prayers from China, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mongolia, South Korea and The Philippines.

China: It is hoped that in 12 months' time, the English Bibletime courses will have been translated into Simple Chinese. The A Series has already been completed. Pray for the protection of workers and evangelists as it is dangerous to approach Churches and the material cannot be promoted in schools.

Malaysia: English Bibletime is currently being used in some Sunday Schools, but there is great enthusiasm to translate into Malay so that more children can be reached. Please pray for the formation of a translation team and for this new project to begin.

Myanmar (Burma): The goal is to finish translating all the Bibletime lessons in both Burmese and Falam Chin this year. Already seven Bible Colleges and nine Churches have indicated that they would be very happy to use the materials for children. 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.

Mongolia: Praise God that a volunteer has come forward to translate the material into Mongolian. Pray for health, strength, protection and determination for her.

South Korea: Translation of the Newlife series into South Korean has been completed, and translation of Bibletime is about to commence. There is huge potential for the BES children's ministry in South Korea, as connections with over 240 assemblies have already been made. Please pray for the translation of Bibletime into the South Korean language and for safety and protection of the workers.

The Philippines: English Bibletime booklets are currently being used by 1,000 children in four Christian schools in their Ethics Course. Please pray for guidance as to whether Bibletime should be translated into the local language of Tagalog.

Editor's Note

We have just published a new Daily Prayer Diary which gives up to date information for all the countries where BES material is being used. Copies are available for Ireland from the BES Office (37 Belmore Street, Enniskillen. BT74 6AA); copies for England, Scotland and Wales can be obtained from Stephen Gillham, 32 Firs Glen Road, West Moors, Ferndown, Dorset. BH22 0ED.



Final Thought

Stevie Walls

Beautiful!

In Romans 10:14, the Apostle Paul poses several rhetorical questions to illustrate that an individual can only put their faith in Christ once they have heard the message of the Gospel. In verse 15 Paul then expresses a wonderful truth ... "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!" (NLT). When using the term beautiful, Paul is speaking of an opportune point of time. He is saying that the arrival of those bringing the good news is timely. At our recent conference we were acutely aware of God at work across the world, with messengers being mobilised and resourced so that they can bring the good news of Jesus to the next generation in a timely way. Please pray with us that God will enable us to encourage and support His messengers as they point children and young people to the Saviour.

Contact BES

Registered BES Office:

c/o Angela Johnston, 37 Belmore Street, Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, BT74 6AA

Telephone: 028 6632 2462

Email: info@besweb.com

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

Editor and Secretary of Trust:

Stephen Gillham – stephen@sgillham.co.uk

International Secretary:

Sam Balmer - sam@besweb.com

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

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

The next edition of BES news is Winter 2019 reporting on Bibletime in Africa

Further copies of this BES news can be downloaded from our website - www.besweb.com

The reuse of any information within BES News editions must only be done with the permission of BES.



BESnews Summer 2019
Resourcing you to reach the next generation

www.besweb.com
Registered Charity: UK 1096157, Eire 5880