



## BES news Asia Summer 2021

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It has been two years since the BES News was focused on Asia and these reports show that there have been encouraging developments in many areas. The global pandemic has given the translators more time to make significant progress in translation. Some material has had to be printed in-country because of the closure of land and sea borders. However, the pandemic has created new on-line initiatives which allow children to receive Bibletime booklets to study the Word of God via the BES website, local indigenous or video sharing websites such as YouTube, or audio and web conferencing platforms like 'Zoom'.

It is a great encouragement to see how Bibletime translation has been completed in some Asian countries and considerable advancement is being made in other languages. Bibletime material is available now or is being translated in Bengali, Burmese, Falam Chin, Hindi, Khmer, Malayalam, Mongolian, Nepalese, South Korean, Telugu, Tamil and Urdu.

We praise God for His continued provision of translators, designers, teachers and those who have a passion to reach the next generation with the Word of God.

Much prayer is needed in each of these countries as the reports show.

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## India

### Bejoy

BES India is coordinated by Bejoy and Lily, and assisted by Biju, Rejoy and Mini. They have continued to distribute Bibletime despite the challenges of Covid-19, lockdowns, and the continual threat of persecution. Hindi is the official language of India and the translation of all the Bibletime booklets and Teacher Guidelines into Hindi and Malayalam is finished. Translation and design of the B Series is currently taking place in Telugu and Tamil and most are at the final corrections or printing stage. Some printing of the A Series A5 booklets is planned for later this year using local Indian printers in Malayalam, Telugu and Tamil, but most of the booklets in Hindi and English are being printed by Revival Movement in Northern Ireland and shipped to India.

Some of the translators from Northern India would like to translate Bibletime into their local tribal language of Surgujia. Approximately 2 million people speak this language, and it is thought that there are around 10,000 believers in the local villages. Most of this unreached people group are uneducated and cannot read or write, and the translators only have access to a New Testament. The project would therefore help with improving literacy among the people as well as introducing them to God. Please pray for Bejoy and the team as they plan to translate 4 New Testament stories and if the tribes accept them, they will move forwards into a bigger project translating more stories and levels across the Bibletime Series.

Bejoy writes, "Even in this difficult situation, we were able to distribute 1,350 Bibletime booklets in Hindi, 1,250 copies in Tamil, 450 copies in Telugu, 400 copies in English and 800 copies of Bibletime in Malayalam to children at home. We held online Bibletime classes in Malayalam which were well received and watched by many children on YouTube. Bible classes are small, but we praise God for those children who are continuing with their studies. We pray that in such difficult and challenging times of this pandemic, where the hospitals are full, death rates are high and there is a shortage of medical equipment, oxygen and vaccines, that children and their parents will be saved."

The state of Kerala, where Bejoy lives, has been very badly affected by the pandemic and most of their co-workers, friends and relatives are ill with Covid-19. Sadly, a member of the BES India board, Brother Shalu Ninan Bhilai recently went to be with the Lord. He will be a great loss for Bejoy and the team. Pray for God's healing and His divine protection over them all at this very challenging time.



## Cambodia

Insun

Insun and Youmi have been serving as missionaries in Cambodia since 2010. Insun has been the Country Director of Emmaus Cambodia since 2014. Due to Covid-19, living with restrictions has become a new norm in Cambodia. Schools have been closed for many months, and almost all social activities are prohibited. Church meetings are now held online since the capital city is under a very strict lockdown due to a severe outbreak. Insun reports that the team is working from home because travelling within and outside the city is prohibited. It has caused a huge challenge to life and ministry.

Insun says, ***“Praise God that the translation of Bibletime lessons in Level 0, 1, and 2, along with the Teacher Guidelines are finally done in Khmer. Tamás is helping with the design work for those lessons. As we see these booklets come together, we are getting more excited that these will be a timely blessing and help to many Cambodian Christians and their families. Even the Cambodian brother in our translation team found it helpful in understanding the Bible as I tested these materials with him. We would appreciate your continued prayers for God’s help for the ongoing work of translation, design and editing, as well as other remaining processes to follow such as printing, promoting, and distribution of the material. Please pray for Cambodia as it is facing a crisis and many uncertainties at the moment, since it has been hit hard by the pandemic much later than other surrounding countries.”***



## Bangladesh

Foyez

Foyez has a wife, Jasmine and 8-year-old twins. He has been the Project and Training Coordinator for SIM (Serving In Mission) in Bangladesh since 2011. He is also involved in the Bangladesh Bible Correspondence School (BDBCS), which has been sending courses to students since 1958. In an effort to expand their international connections, he travelled to a neighbouring country in 2018 and met ‘H’. He was introduced to Bibletime and began to further this work upon his return home.

Prior to the pandemic, Foyez’s small team had translated level 0 of the A Series, adapted the already translated Indian Bengali Bibletime lessons into 2 dialects (Local and Muslim Bangla) and printed a few thousand copies of each level. They were used by 228 children in Bangladesh through the BDBCS and some Sunday Schools. In February 2021, Foyez held a discipleship workshop in Comilla for about 80 teenagers called ‘Transforming by the Word of God’. He used the Bibletime material to teach them about God with the aim of making them into future disciples. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Foyez and the team have used Facebook and other social media platforms to maintain contact with Bible students. Through ‘Zoom’ they began a children’s online Bible school where they used the translated Bibletime with over 24 children mostly from the capital, Dhaka. In the last 6 months, the numbers using Bibletime to study God’s Word has increased to 270 children. We praise God for this growth and pray that each of these children will come to know Jesus as their personal Saviour.





## China

'T'

It is estimated that Christianity is the fastest growing religion in China with approximately 100 million Christians. However, promotion of religious publications not authorised by the government can lead to severe punishment with long prison sentences and fines. Progress with translation and design of Bibletime into simple Chinese has been slow due to isolation, severe restrictions and censorship of Christian material. Despite this, the A Series is near completion and as the material is educational, T is praying that the rules will allow it to be placed onto websites for downloading. We join T in prayer over this situation, in the hope that this translated material can be widely used and free from censorship.

## Malaysia

Titus

English Bibletime is currently being used in some Sunday Schools which print the material themselves, 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)

'T'

T became involved with BES in 2017 and he and another colleague began translating the A Series of Bibletime into Falam Chin and Burmese. These have been completed and in 2020, 16,000 copies of Bibletime were printed in Levels 1-4 and made available to children in Myanmar for the first time. Prior to the pandemic, 7 Bible colleges and 9 churches were using the Bibletime resources.

Despite the on-going civil unrest, military dictatorship, protests, violence and turmoil, more than 50 children in 8 different regions throughout Myanmar are now working through the A1-A6 Bibletime booklet. T and his colleague continue to translate the B Series and have held 4 sessions with 90 teachers training them on how to use Bibletime to teach the Word of God to children. Two of the sessions have involved Stevie Walls, The BES International Development Manager from Northern Ireland, delivering some video conference training to Bible college teachers, Bible translators, missionaries, Sunday School teachers and pastors in Myanmar. The Teacher Guidelines have been well received and there is great demand for this resource. In the future, T hopes that the Bibletime material in Burmese will be used by all churches over Myanmar, and the translated Bibletime booklets in Falam Chin will be used by the local churches and groups in Chin state. Pray for their continued safety, protection and courage as T and his family reach out with Bibletime.

## The Philippines

JecJohna

JecJohna is married to Joana and they have one adopted son. JecJohna has been the pastor of the Newlife Fellowship for the last 17 years and is involved in Teens for Christ. English Bibletime booklets were printed using a local printer in February 2021, and are currently being used by 1,000 children in 4 Christian schools in their Ethics Course. The children really enjoy Bibletime because of the variety of material and the structured logical layout of each booklet which helps them learn.

JecJohna says, ***“The students find the Bibletime booklets so challenging and enjoyable and especially delight in learning the memory verses and completing the numeracy and literacy puzzles. Since we have printed Bibletime and it has been seen by many other pastors, children and teachers, demand and interest is huge! It has outstripped our small supply and therefore greater quantities are required to maintain continuity and enthusiasm for their usage.”***

Please pray for guidance as to whether Levels 1 and 2 of Bibletime should be translated into the local language of Tagalog for younger children who have not yet learnt English.



## Mongolia

Andreas

Christianity in Mongolia is a minority religion, with approximately 25,000 Christians living in Mongolia's capital, Ulaanbaatar. Praise God for the volunteers who are translating Bibletime into Mongolian. They are making good progress with the A Series booklets.



## South Korea

Myungjin-Noh

In September 2020, the translation of Bibletime into Korean began by Sungmo Yuh, Myungjin-Noh and a small team of volunteers. They have nearly completed the A Series booklets and will soon be moving onto the Teacher Guidelines. 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 initial promotion of the Korean Bibletime material to 100 local assemblies, churches and other potential ministry partners.

## Nepal

Pratibha

The Bibletime project in Nepal is still in its infancy. Although most of the translation into Nepalese across the Series is complete, only the first few booklets have been designed and are print ready. The restrictions brought by Covid-19 and the disruption to life has prevented any of the material from being printed and promoted to groups, schools and churches in the rural areas, and the resource has not been introduced to children yet. Pray that once the restrictions are eased, Bibletime can be introduced to children, and because of its simple language, young readers will be able to understand God's Word, His message and plan for their lives.





## Pakistan

Sajida

Bibletime booklets in both English and Urdu are being used in Pakistan in different settings. Since it is difficult to import books from overseas, MIK (Christian Publishing House) print the Bibletime resources locally. Almost 200 children at The Life Transforming Schools (LTC) Akhtarabad and Renala Khurd Okara (a project run by Noor Ministries in Pakistan) are studying God's Word using the Bibletime booklets in Urdu for 45 minutes each day. Sajida says, "All the students taking the Bibletime course are growing in their Christian faith and in their walk with the Lord. Some have come to Christ as a result." Timna, a 10-year-old student at LTC school says, "I love the BES courses as they help me to learn the Word of God and know God deeply. I want to become a Bible teacher and tell other children about God". The schools have also organised short training workshops for those teaching the BES course, so they can deliver the Bibletime lessons effectively to the children.

More than 1,000 children in 2 Christian schools and 8 churches are studying the Bible regularly using the Bibletime booklets in English. The Care Channels Learning Centre (CCLC) uses them in their English medium classes. They have been using the Level 3 material and have now started using Level 2 booklets from the A Series with the younger children.

Please pray for the outreach work and Holiday Bible Clubs planned for the summer in the local villages. They attract many unchurched children, and the Bibletime booklets are a great source of educational material for them. Two years ago, 300 children came to believe in Jesus through these outreach Bible events. Please pray that God will prepare the way again this year.





# Welcome to **Bible Educational Services** TRAINING

## **BES Training**

**Stevie Walls, BES International Development Manager**

The use of the Bibletime resource has been rapidly growing across the world in recent years. Country visits have been critical to the development of the work of Bible Educational Services (BES) and have provided a wonderful opportunity to support partners in their service for God. The exceptional growth and current global pandemic have presented a challenge to BES as to how they can appropriately support their intermediaries across the world.

After consultation with a range of global partners, BES has built a Learning Management System (LMS) which will contain all the new training materials. The LMS will allow for different language templates to be created and can be accessed by partners and volunteers across the world at a time which suits them. The system is user friendly and allows for personalised learning, where courses can be created from stored modules to provide a bespoke online training course. A new blended approach to training is now possible with the use of the LMS and a video conferencing tool, which allows for groups to complete some individual training on the LMS before being provided with input from a BES trainer.

Training materials are being developed to cover a range of topics, including translating and printing the Bibletime material, setting up a local centre in a country, complying with the BES Safeguarding and Child Protection policy, training teachers on how to effectively teach a Bibletime lesson to a group of children, rewarding and encouraging children, and providing effective feedback on a completed Bibletime lesson. Additional material on Special Educational Needs is being made available to ensure that the programmes and lessons are accessible to all children and young people.

Please pray and support BES as we have committed time and resources to the development of what we believe will revolutionise our training, and support partners across the world. Pray for wisdom and help as the BES training committee shape the content for the course. Pray for the initial development of 4 language templates for the LMS (French, Portuguese, Spanish & Swahili).

## **Training**

**in Myanmar and Tanzania**

Despite the ongoing political turmoil in Myanmar, BES completed 2 bespoke training sessions with brothers and sisters from across the country in April. The participants logged on to a 'Zoom' call and were trained with the use of presentations and practical activities. Feedback was obtained, and all participants reported finding the training useful, user friendly and they would recommend the training to others. They all stated that they had grown in confidence in the areas in which they were trained.

More training sessions are planned for May with a group of 65 children's workers in Tanzania. Once again 'Zoom' will be used along with 'Kahoot!', an interactive programme to help with engagement over three days of training. Please pray for strength and discernment as the bespoke training materials are developed and used.

# Revival Movement

## Printing and Shipping BES Resources

BES are extremely thankful to Revival Movement who have printed and shipped the following Bibletime booklets and Teacher Guidelines - Arabic to the Middle East, French to DR Congo and Burkina Faso, Swahili to Tanzania, Hungarian and Romanian to Romania, and are in the process of printing English Bibletime booklets to be shipped worldwide. Continue to pray for the Spanish Bibletime booklets which have been printed and are ready to be shipped to Argentina, pending clearance from customs. The next projects for prayer are Kinyarwanda Bibletime booklets for Rwanda and Portuguese Bibletime booklets for Brazil and the Portuguese-speaking world. We pray that the Lord will continue to provide sufficient people and finance for this amazing ministry.



## Bert & Wendy Gray

### BES Ambassadors

Please continue to pray for Bert and Wendy, whose health is deteriorating as they progress into their senior years. Please pray for guidance and wisdom as they consider moving from their cottage into a retirement apartment which will enhance and support a new, low maintenance lifestyle with modern amenities.

## Silver Servers

Are you a grandparent? Could you help change the fact that many children don't know about Jesus? Silver Servers has been designed to give you everything you need. Through this website, there is on-line access to all of the Bibletime Resources free of charge! Register your interest and sign up to our online newsletter via the website: [www.silver-servers.org](http://www.silver-servers.org).



## A Final Thought

by Bejoy (India)

We are living in the end times. Our Lord is at hand! Jesus said, "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work". John 9: 4 (NKJV). So, we should use all the opportunities to reach the people with the Gospel. Let us use our time wisely to reach our communities with the Word of God. "Be very careful, then, how you live, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil." Ephesians 5: 15-16 (NKJV). The God who began HIS good works through us will complete it at HIS coming. We will see the fruit of our labour on that day. Let us be seen as faithful servants and stewards at HIS coming. **'Maranatha'**.

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## Support BES

### How to support BES

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**A new BES Prayer Diary will replace the BES News in Winter 2021. Therefore, the next BES News in Summer 2022 is from Africa.**

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