



BES news **Africa** Summer 2022

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This edition of the Summer BES News focuses on Africa with its encouraging reports mapping the development of Bibletime throughout this continent. Since 2012, BES has been able to make progress in countries where English is not the main language, supporting small teams to translate the Bibletime syllabus into their native language. The global pandemic also gave translators more time to make significant progress. The reports show that over 2.6 million French Bibletime booklets 'Avec la Bible' are being used in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic (CAR), DR Congo, Gabon, Ivory Coast and Mali. The team in Brazil worked hard to produce Bibletime in Portuguese 'Hora Bíblica' and these have been utilized in Angola and Mozambique. Hundreds of thousands of Swahili Bibletime booklets are being completed by children in Tanzania and translation has finished in Kikaonde and Bemba where the lower-level booklets are used in Zambia. Arabic (Middle East), Kinyarwanda (Rwanda), Oromo and Amharic (Ethiopia) are still progressing, and translations have begun in Chichewa (Malawi) and Congo Swahili. It is a great encouragement to see how Bibletime translation has made considerable advancement and 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.

Since we last reported on Africa in 2019, the spread of BES work has greatly increased, and we thank God for the tremendous help given by Revival Movement as they print and ship 95% of the Bibletime booklets which are used in 24 African countries.

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Angola

Isaac Buca

In November 2019, Revival Movement printed 20,000 Portuguese Bibletime booklets for Angola. Isaac Buca is the General Secretary for The Evangelical Church of the Brothers (IEIA), which is represented in 16 provinces throughout the country. Alexandre Torres, from BES in Brazil, flew to Angola to train teachers from 9 of these provinces in how to deliver a Bibletime lesson to children. Many of the teachers said that they found the Bibletime booklets easy to understand and content-rich and the resources would easily appeal to children. Currently 115 local churches are using the Bibletime booklets with their children. In 2022, Revival Movement printed 120,000 Portuguese Bibletime booklets. These will be shipped in stages via Brian Howden at Angola Literature Fund. This larger quantity of material will enable Brian and Isaac to give each child, in most churches, an opportunity to learn about Jesus using Bibletime.

Benin

Bernard Chabi Douarou (ZAM)

In the summer of 2020, 40 boxes of French Bibletime booklets left for Benin from the Ivory Coast by truck. The shipment had to pass through Ghana, Togo and then into Benin and this was allowed during the Covid-19 pandemic because it was unaccompanied freight. Since the arrival of the BES resources, Bernard, the BES and ZAM (Central African Mission) coordinator, has distributed over 17,600 booklets to 467 churches and 4 primary schools. He has over 4,800 students and trained 192 teachers and Sunday School teachers in the past 18 months. In 2022, he plans to promote Bibletime in 2 primary schools in Djougou, and hold 2 children's camps in the Bembéréké region. Bernard says that by 2023 his ambitious goal is to reach 50 schools and 5 denominations, and to do that he is praying for more BES resources.



Burkina Faso

Christine Bonkougou and Priscilla Sawadago

Christine, Priscilla and their team coordinate the distribution of the Bibletime booklets to children in Burkina Faso. Over the last 3 years, they have received over 500,000 French Bibletime booklets and their organisational skills, passion and dedication to this children's ministry have allowed the distribution networks with the churches and schools to develop and grow. In February the BES team identified members from the national committee in the Children's Department to help manage the Bibletime resources in schools, allowing Christine and her team to concentrate on promoting the material to the churches and establishing a new card system to monitor its usage. Recently, several regional training and promotional events took place at Tanghin Barrage and Saaba. They held a national seminar for all instructors in March 2022 for all those teachers who were interested in using the Bibletime booklets for the first time or who wanted to refresh their training.

Issaka Dabonne is a teacher at the Apostolic church of Tanghin Barrage. He took part in the training and says, "I thank God for this partnership with BES and Revival Movement which allows us to have these materials. The Teacher Guidelines are such practical documents. The Bibletime booklets are full of drawings, colouring pages and memory verses which the children can easily learn. May God bless these ministries."

Bibletime is used in 1,430 churches, in 10 schools and over 2,036 teachers have been trained in how to use the BES resources. The future plans for Bibletime include reaching more children in the 73 ecclesiastical regions of Burkina Faso, reaching into more schools and to continue to train and strengthen the project management team.



Cameroon

Noel Tanekeu (ZAM)

Noel is the coordinator of the BES ministry in Cameroon. Prior to lockdown, a container of French Bibletime booklets was shipped by Revival Movement to Cameroon. Some of the boxes were then distributed by road to Chad, CAR (Central African Republic) and Gabon. The BES material is mainly disseminated in Cameroon through the Baptist and Evangelical churches. Noel says the Bibletime booklets have been well received because of their structured logical layout and the interesting activities and puzzles which the children find challenging and enjoyable. The teachers think the Teacher Guidelines are an amazing resource and have learnt so much about God themselves since using them to teach the children.



Central African Republic (CAR)

Abed-Nego N'Djama (ZAM)

Abed-Nego, a ZAM worker, based in the capital Bangui, distributes Bibletime to schools and churches throughout CAR. Since March 2019 he has given material to 6 schools, 41 churches and held 7 teacher training sessions. He estimates he has given 16,880 French Bibletime booklets to children and young people in and around the Bangui provinces, but states that demand and interest from the outer provinces is growing as people see the booklets in use. Recently Abed-Nego supplied material to the Evangelical School Complex, which includes students using Bibletime at both primary and secondary level. Jean-Marc, one of the older students, says, "I have my own Bibletime book which I can take with me wherever I go. I can show it to others and teach them about the Word of God. Even my parents find it interesting to read and they have learnt a lot about God which they didn't know before." Abed-Nego asks for prayer as he plans to hold some summer youth camps and reach out into the poorer neighbourhoods where children roam the streets with nothing to do. He wishes to teach them about Jesus using Bibletime in the hope of changing their attitudes and behaviour to God and one another.



Chad

Bianzeube Tikri (ZAM)

Bianzeube has been extremely active over the last year promoting Bibletime in the southern provinces of Chad. With 12,263 students using Bibletime in 79 churches and 15 schools he and his ZAM team have been very busy with Emmaus and BES work. They have trained 122 teachers, including 63 Sunday School teachers and 12 officials from Reception Centres for Orphaned Children. Their aim is to expand the ministry and reach into all 23 provinces of Chad, especially the northern area which is heavily populated by Muslims. This year, he intends to reach more children, organise a Bibletime training retreat for 80 instructors and promote Bibletime in 10 new orphanages. Sephora, a teacher from Bethel Orphanage Centre, says, "We did not have any training manuals for teachers, and we struggled to teach the children the Word of God in an understandable way. However, God answered our prayers with the BES Teacher Guidelines. We finally have good tools for teaching, and it brings us joy to see the children preciousely holding their own copies of the Bibletime booklets, filling them in, reciting memory verses and telling others about Jesus." Bianzeube's prayer is that more Bibletime booklets will be shipped to their landlocked country to enable their plans to be realised.



DR Congo

Bernard Kambale (Goma) and Emmanuel Ngoy Kakudji wa Kita (Lubumbashi) (ZAM)

Revival Movement have printed and shipped over 900,000 Bibletime booklets to Congo over the years for use in schools and churches.

Bernard, a ZAM worker, is situated in Goma. He has over 1,245 students across 10 churches and 8 schools. The booklets are being used in school to teach part of the national RE curriculum. Bernard currently receives the English Bibletime material but would like to use the resources in Congo Swahili once they have been translated.

Emmanuel and his team in Lubumbashi have over 31,837 students. Due to the inactivity of many churches and schools in 2020, he initiated two projects in early 2021 to reenergise interest in the French Bibletime booklets 'Avec la Bible'. He organised a large-scale outreach programme in which workers went into neighbourhoods to promote the material and he also arranged the first Bible conference in the Province of Katanga. These initiatives were successful and in 2021/2022 Emmanuel and his team trained 178 teachers, registered 4 new schools, and distributed 31,819 Bibletime booklets to children. They have expanded the ministry into other cities in Katanga Province, including Kipushi, Likasi and Kolwezi, and with more material they are praying they will reach into Kasumbalesa and continue their promotional outreach activities in Lubumbashi during the summer months.

Ethiopia

Mulugeta, Tadesse and Stand by Me

In 2021, BES developed a new partnership with Stand by Me, a Christian charity which supports children and young people across the world through a sponsorship programme. Some staff engaged in bespoke 'Zoom' training with Stevie Walls from BES. After the training, these volunteers established a 'Saturday Club' for 300 local children. Through games, stories, drama and discussion the children who participated were able to learn, ask questions and better understand the love of God. Some of the children said they loved Saturday Club so much that they wanted to know if they could have it on Sunday as well! The Oromo Bibletime material is also being used with around 1,000 children from 2 schools in Dembi and Bekoji.

Jonny Farrell, Director of Stand by Me said, "It is a real joy and encouragement to see our staff and volunteers from the local church engage so actively with the kids with Scripture. We are so grateful to BES for the training and resources that have allowed this new project to develop and are excited to see it expand to more children in our care in the months ahead."

The Amharic and Oromo Bibletime resources are being used throughout the country by Tadesse and Mulugeta. Since receiving the Bibletime lessons in Oromo from Revival Movement, Tadesse has held many BES training sessions alongside CBS (Community Bible Studies) training. More than 7,200 teachers have been trained and over 194,000 Oromo booklets have been given to children. Pray for the continued translation of Bibletime into Amharic and Oromo, as both projects have made little progress in the last 18 months. Work in the mission field is often challenging, so pray for dedication, protection, finance and the health of those involved.



Egypt

Ayman Habeb Swaires

In October 2020, a container with 120,000 Arabic Bibletime booklets arrived in Egypt, which had been printed and shipped by Revival Movement. Ayman, a pastor, Emmaus coordinator and the Vice President of the Churches of Grace in Egypt, is currently overseeing this BES project. Ayman estimates that 71,000 Bibletime booklets have been distributed to children through the Churches of Grace network. He has stated that the young people find the material enjoyable and are excited by it, as it is easy to read and understand. Many training sessions have been held, training 700 adults using the 'Train the Trainer' system. This system allows teachers to cascade their knowledge, experience and training to other tutors in their local Sunday Schools. The Arabic Bibletime translation project should be completed by the end of 2022.



Gabon

Gilbert Essone Obiang (ZAM)

In August 2020, 41,400 French Bibletime booklets arrived in Gabon. It had taken several months for them to cross multiple land borders and pass through customs, quarantine and other stringent processes. Hampered by Covid-19 restrictions, the booklets were not distributed in earnest until late 2021 and early 2022. There has been much excitement and enthusiasm for the resources, as there is currently no known programme in the country which supplies children's Biblical literature. Gilbert has given out 14,428 booklets to over 202 churches and 9 schools, 7 of which are from the Christian Alliance. In February and March 2022, he held 2 seminars training 42 teachers and Sunday School teachers in how to teach a Bibletime lesson. Flora Essone, a Sunday School teacher from the Christian Alliance Church of Awoungou, says, "The teaching manuals are such a blessing and an answer to our prayers. They are presented in a methodical manner so that the lesson can be easily taught to the children." Gilbert says that the BES material has been such a success that they are planning to launch a new project in February 2023. They will open a dedicated training school for Sunday School teachers and supervisors to promote formal training for children's ministry. It will be a first in its field and will set a high standard using the BES resources.



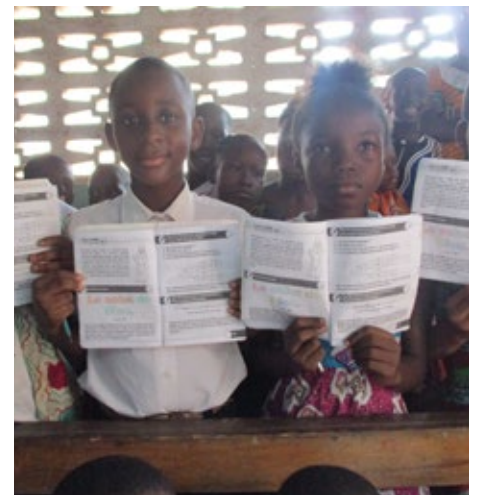
Ghana

Ireland Outreach and Afia Darkwar

During the summer months of July and August 2021, many boxes of BES resources were shipped from the Emmaus Bible Mission Centres to support the Children and Teens' Ministry in Teshie Tsuibleoo District, Ghana. The tutors found the BES material assisted in establishing a basis for Christian principles and morals and was easily taught to children through the Bible stories in the booklets. Now that the country is beginning to reopen after the restrictions of lockdown, the teams from Ireland Outreach can begin to disseminate the remaining stock of 44,000 Bibletime booklets to children once again.

The Bibletime resources have been promoted to schools, churches, and community ministries via Afia and the Hopespring foundation for the past 7 years. Great work with children is going on in Navrongo, Kandiga, Mirigu, Vunania, and Paga but Afia would like to see the ministry extend its reach into more provinces. She feels that the children's ministry is under attack especially in the cities and many Sunday School teachers have grown weary. However, recently, the Potter's Masterpieces Foundation promoted Bibletime in the Kassena Nankana Municipal in the Upper East Region of Ghana and Afia reports that some families have seen a positive change in their children's behaviour and attitude. Some of the teachers there have also praised the Teacher Guidelines reporting that the manuals have taken away the struggle to put together Bible stories which suit children of certain age groups and have helped them to teach the children at the appropriate level.

She tells a story about two families who live in Haatso, some 200 metres away from the office in Accra. She says, "In July 2020, Hopespring Foundation in collaboration with the Christian Missions Resource Foundation launched a special Covid-19 outreach programme to engage both young people and women in Haatso. It was during the outreach that children from two families started coming to our office to receive Bibletime booklets. Every Tuesday and Friday they would come to the office to receive the Bibletime worksheets, which they would take away, complete at home and submit on their next visit. Within four months, these children had finished the entire A Series. Interestingly, the children come from families who practise African Traditional Religion, and one of the fathers is a 'healer and priest'. They live close to their ancestral shrine, but the wonder is how these children trooped in every week to collect their Bibletime booklets. They would occasionally bring along other children. Sadly, they have now been prevented from returning for more material, but we pray for them and more families to learn and choose to follow Jesus."



Ivory Coast

Antoine Sinza and Armand Monhon Tinde (ZAM)

Armand is the coordinator of the Emmaus and BES courses with ZAM. Sinza is a Minister at Word Alive Church and the founder of the youth movement, Impact Jeunesse, in Abidjan. They are currently working in partnership to share and distribute the French Bibletime material, 'Avec la Bible' throughout Ivory Coast. Armand is working in 127 churches and 2 primary schools and has 42,905 students, while Sinza has 6,572 students from 104 churches mainly in the areas of Abidjan and Aboisso. They have both carried out training sessions this year and wish to promote Bibletime to children in the north, the east and the southwest of the country. Sinza has plans to visit the city of Tiapoum in the South Comoé region in the coming months. Mala, 8 years old from UEESO-CI church in Toulepleu has recently been learning about the story of Noah. He said that he enjoyed the crossword puzzles, pictures and tasks which helped him to understand the message and Bible story.

Kenya

Lazarus and Jane Kisau (Emmaus)

Lazarus is the Regional Director of the Emmaus Bible School, and he and his wife Jane coordinate the BES material coming into Kenya. Other representatives from Echoes of Mercy, Teens for Christ and Kindfund also use the BES resources. Since they received the container of material in September 2021, Lazarus and Jane have distributed over 129,322 booklets to children from 51 primary schools and 88 churches. Many churches have used the Bibletime booklets for their Sunday School lessons, for their Bible Clubs and Vacation Bible School (VBS) programmes. Lazarus would like to see more primary and secondary schools using the Bibletime material as part of their Pastoral Programme Instruction (PPI) syllabus. He plans to train more teachers in remote villages to use the Bibletime material and continue promoting the BES ministry through the Emmaus networks in Kenya. Martha, a teacher, says, "The children have a desire to hear and learn more about Jesus now that they have the Bibletime booklets. The memory verse helps them to remember key pieces of Scripture, and Bibletime aids the teachers to equip the children with proper knowledge of the Word of God." She has been using the BES material since 2014 and believes that discipline amongst those children using Bibletime has been enhanced, teaching skills developed and the children's behaviour has greatly improved.



Malawi

Anna Vallance (SALT)

BES began a partnership with Southern African Literature Trust (SALT) in Malawi several years ago. In 2021, Stephen Harper and his team started a pilot project in Dzaleka Refugee Camp. There are over 50,000 people in the camp, most of whom speak Swahili. As Bibletime had already been translated into Swahili, they printed the courses locally and began using them. They have been a huge success and the children love having their own personal booklet. There is a school and orphan-care ministry at Dzaleka, called Christian Orphan Organisation in Malawi (COOM) overseen by William Iyango. Many of the 800 Swahili Bibletime booklets that were printed are being used in the school.

Anna, Wati, Harold and Goodson are part of the SALT team and several of them took part in a 2-day training seminar by BES in August 2021. Since then, they continue to go to the Dzaleka refugee camp once a month to see the Bible clubs, meet local teachers, help them work through any challenges that arise and build friendships. The teachers love the resources and the children's booklets because they are so comprehensive and easy to follow. Previously they had been choosing their lesson by randomly selecting a passage. The teachers note that they themselves are benefiting from spending time in God's Word each week as they prepare the lessons.

SALT have a vision to make the Bibletime material available to schools and after-school clubs across the entire country of Malawi. They are now in the process of translating the Bibletime syllabus into the national language of Chichewa, which is spoken by over 19 million people. Anna is also producing picture booklets from 'FreeBibleimages' to accompany the Bibletime syllabus so children and teachers have visual aids to help them learn. Please pray for these exciting developments, and for continued enthusiasm and persistence for the translation and proofing teams.

Mali

Youssef Dramane Dao (ZAM)

The BES ministry was launched in Mali in 2018, and Youssef has been extremely busy since receiving the last shipment of booklets in February 2020. He has distributed over 112,300 French booklets to 570 churches and trained 65 teachers from the Children's Spiritual Education Programme (SNC). In 2022 / 2023 Youssef intends to promote Bibletime with a BES national conference, provide refresher training for teachers with a session on special educational needs, and reach out to different church denominations in Bamako. He loves the teaching manuals. He says the Teacher Guidelines are separated into different levels which reflect the different stages of a child's growth and development. Therefore, this enables teachers to pitch the lesson at the appropriate level for the child. Teachers have never had training or guidance like this before and have found this approach so instructive and enlightening. Pastor Emmanuel and Pastor Pierre have both expressed the great benefit of the teaching manuals for their communities and have seen the increased level of understanding that the children have about God because of them.

Mozambique

Patrick Mulenga

Patrick, his wife Grace, and their small team have a desire to use the Bibletime resources to disciple children and fully train teachers in their use throughout Mozambique. They have already started to develop new partnerships with churches, schools and youth rehabilitation centres in the north and west of the country. They have 5,078 students who regularly complete their Bibletime booklets. Patrick tells of a group of teenagers who were inspired when they completed their A1-A6 level 4 booklets and, having a better understanding of the Scriptures, eagerly witnessed to their non-Christian friends. Soon, everyone witnessed considerable growth in the number of young people and teenagers who began to attend church regularly, which was so encouraging to see.



Nigeria

Ireland Outreach

Within Nigeria, the Fellowship of Christian Students (FCS) is one of the main distributors of Bibletime booklets associated with Ireland Outreach. They use the materials during school holidays at summer school and in IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) camps. One of the IDPs is known as Bethel Living Stone Academy in Abuja. This refugee camp is full of children who have survived the terrorist attacks from Boko Haram and will grow up without siblings or parents. BES material is also used by FCS officials in the primary schools in Abuja during their devotional time. The FCS and its teachers like using the material as it is structured and helps to develop the child's spiritual growth. During December 2021, some of the distributors from Ireland Outreach went to the children's wards in 3 of the local hospitals in Jos. They gave the children gifts and Bibletime booklets to study since they would not be leaving the hospital during Christmas which brought them joy in a time of great need.

The BES resources are used in many Sunday Schools, including in one of the largest evangelical churches of Nigeria, called ECWA Gospel Church in Plateau State, Jos. Thousands of BES booklets were given out to children here and the teachers have found these resources a great help for their own discipleship and journey with God. One teacher gave her life to Christ as a result of using the Teacher Guidelines and learning about God.

Ireland Outreach in Nigeria now have very little stock, with over 48,000 booklets given out to children across the provinces in the last 12 months. The last 138 boxes of material were given out at their leadership conference in April 2022.





Rwanda

Aminadab Mbanzabugabo Muteteri

Aminadab is the Executive Director of Teens for Christ In Rwanda. Between 2018 and 2021 he and his team distributed over 220,000 Bibletime booklets in English and Kinyarwanda to children mainly living in Kigali, Rusizi, Burera Northern and Cyanguggu Western. They provide BES resources to 300 churches and 86 primary and secondary schools on a regular basis. Due to Covid-19 restrictions closing many churches and schools, the Teens for Christ team gave the children and teenagers the booklets to complete at home.

This year 150 teachers have undertaken training, including 50 of them who attended a dedicated 2-day training course with BES using some of the new Learning Management System modules, partaking in breakout sessions and spending some time on 'Zoom' with Stevie Walls. The feedback that Aminadab has received from teachers, especially from those who have not had any formal training, is of joy, because they previously didn't know where to start! The lesson plans have guided them through the structure of a lesson, with introductions, explanations of the Bible passage and ideas of how to reinforce the learning. They are delighted with the Teacher Guidelines in both Kinyarwanda and English and use them all the time. Jerome, a teacher in charge from Adepr Kimisagara says, "Before I got the teaching manuals I suffered. I did not know how to teach, where to start or how to reach a child. Now I have the Teacher Guidelines I have a structured plan to guide me. I am so happy, and my teaching is so fearless, like never before, and the children love Bibletime."

Translation of the Bibletime syllabus into Kinyarwanda is progressing with the B Series and Aminadab hopes to drive this forward in the coming months. He requests prayer for some motorbikes to help with the transportation and distribution of Bibletime to more remote areas of Rwanda.

South Africa

Marlon Govender

Marlon, his wife Judy and their adult children actively serve and are involved in their fellowship at Berario, RGM (Rand Gospel Mission), EMMAUS, BES and Morning Manna. Marlon says, "After 2 years of the Bibletime ministry being hindered due to the pandemic and with churches and schools being closed we have had a wonderful start to 2022. In the first quarter of 2022 we distributed 4,800 Bibletime booklets to different ministries and churches here in South Africa. What is, however, much more encouraging and interesting is the growth in the Bibletime correspondence work. We have been receiving far greater requests via email and social media. We thank God that we are able to print all these locally at our Emmaus office. There may be a slight slowdown in the work over May and June when Judy and I go on a sabbatical but we expect to come back energised and refreshed and tackle the ministry with renewed passion for the second half of 2022. Pray for us and for the BES Ministry in South Africa."



Tanzania

David Ombeni

David Ombeni is the Faith and Development Manager for World Vision (WV). One of its aims is to create spaces and opportunities for children to pursue their own spiritual journey. WV opened its office in Tanzania in 1981 and it is now operating with an extensive network in 16 regions. Their vision is to reach 1 million children within 5 years, and they launched the Spiritual Nurture of Children Programme in May 2021.

Stevie Walls, the BES International Development Manager, held an initial 'Zoom' training session with 65 children's workers from Tanzania. WV then went on to hold 126 training seminars throughout the country, training over 3,327 children's workers, bishops and pastors.

In June 2021, Revival Movement shipped the first consignment of 200,000 Bibletime booklets in the Swahili language to World Vision Tanzania (WVT). This greatly anticipated shipment was disseminated to children within months. A further container was sent in December 2021 and another in April 2022. They currently have 417,983 students from 863 churches and 148 schools doing the Bibletime course. Demand is so great, and the WVT network so extensive and organised, that within weeks of a container arriving the Bibletime booklets are issued to children. David estimates that they have a demand for 1 million booklets already and the programme is only in its first year!

David writes that the biggest challenges they face are that demand for the Bibletime material has outstripped supply and translation of the B Series is still in progress. The team are working hard to finish it, but progress is slow, and the next series is required for printing. Please join them in prayer to request that it is God's will to meet these needs and bless all the ministries involved in this project.



Uganda

Shadrack Ethans Nsubuga

Missionaries from Northern Ireland, Hannah and Nathan, set up a club in Mutundwe where children in the local area could come to play, eat and learn God's Word. When Hannah and Nathan left Uganda, Shadrack then took over the running of the club with the help of Gracious and Theo. Lockdown was very difficult for the team, but as restrictions have eased, the children have returned and at the beginning of December 2021 they had 89 children at the club each Saturday afternoon. By January 2022, with 170 children and teenagers, they decided to split them into 2 groups – the younger children were encouraged to attend on Saturday afternoons and the older ones were persuaded to attend after church on Sunday evenings.

Shadrack says, "We now have five meeting places where children come and learn about Jesus and His love for them through the Bible stories printed in the Bibletime workbooks. The preaching and teaching of the Gospel to the little children has been made simpler, easier and fun with Bibletime."

Pray for these dedicated and passionate volunteers who run this growing ministry, and that each of the children who attend will mature in their love for God and be shining lights in their communities.

Zambia

Kelvin Samwata and Willie Bunda

The work of BES started in Zambia in September 2010 when they received their first shipment of Bibletime material in English. Willie is the full-time National Coordinator who is responsible for training the Sunday School teachers and distributing the Bibletime material to churches and schools. The BES office is in Chingola, in the Copperbelt Province, but they have extended into 5 regions, including Solwezi, Mansa and Luapula and are praying for opportunities to move into the capital, Lusaka and into some of the northern provinces by the end of 2022. Although they started with a handful of churches using the Bibletime booklets, the ministry has now grown to over 14,400 children using Bibletime from 250 churches and 2 schools. They have recently introduced Bibletime into the Harvesters Orphanage and actively promote the Bibletime resources through social media. They have a programme to encourage church children to recruit their school friends to do the Bibletime course. Pray for solutions for Willie and the BES board members to overcome the challenge of transport to reach churches in outlying provinces.

The level 1 Bibletime material has been translated by Willie and two small teams into Kikaonde and Bemba. Pray for good people to partner with as they train and distribute Bibletime in these local languages to younger children in schools and churches throughout Zambia.



Zimbabwe

Walter Madimutsa (SIM – Serving In Mission)

Chunga (Emmaus worker) and Rev Walter Madimutsa (SIM) have both increased awareness about BES in Zimbabwe, distributing over 120,000 Bibletime booklets, through their different ministries. They have reached out to towns, rural communities and into provinces outside of the capital, Harare. In the missionary field, Walter and his wife Ella promote the BES material whilst being involved in other projects, including LEARN Global, Covid Awareness sessions and SIM related work. Chunga promotes the Bibletime booklets through the Emmaus network where most of their efforts are focused in prisons and schools. As many textbooks are limited, the children are excited to receive their own personal copy of Bibletime, which has become a standard learning tool in some schools. Like many others across Africa, the teachers are thrilled with the Teacher Guidelines and report that they have never seen such detailed, structured and helpful resources.

LEARN Global are also working in Zimbabwe with SIM and other church leaders, equipping them with electronic devices to help them teach the Bible accurately and confidently. Over 300 Zimbabwean church leaders have a tablet with the LEARN Global App on it which includes the BES material (all Bibletime lessons and Teacher Guidelines) on the platform.

Pray for a greater working partnership between BES and SIM in this vast country, where the reach can be extended into more provinces and remote rural villages. Pray for the translation of Bibletime into Shona, the most common language, so that the Word of God can be easily taught and understood by younger children.

Editor's Note

The editorial work has continued, and all A5 English booklets have been revised over the last 3 years. Level 1 booklets are now available with 96 pages, rather than the older 48-page version. Continue to pray for our editors and designers as they work on the Bibletime materials in different languages and in different formats.



Staff Changes

In December 2021 Vicky Gawn, our finance officer left BES so that she could concentrate on supporting her husband, Jeff, who is training to be a Presbyterian minister and raising their son George. Vicky became the first paid BES employee in 2015, and we are so grateful to her for all she has done in supporting and growing the BES work over the years. We take this opportunity to wish Vicky every blessing in these challenging roles of service. You may see her again at the next BES Conference when she temporarily returns with her expertise to help at a busy and demanding time!

In February 2022, BES welcomed Pam Rainey as a Trustee and our new finance officer, volunteering one day a week in the office. She is married to Ken and has 4 adult children. Pam is a Chartered Accountant and has considerable experience in her field and we warmly welcome her to the team.

Ukrainian and Russian Bibletime

Special Update

BES have designed 2 special edition A4 size A1-A6 booklets in both Ukrainian and Russian specifically for refugee children. Over 16,000 of these booklets have been printed and are being used by various people, organisations and ministries in Croatia, Moldova, Poland and Romania. Pray that they will be a massive blessing and comfort to the children who receive them. Pray for the SunScool team in Russia and the Bibletime and Emmaus coordinators in Ukraine and eastern Europe.

If your church or organisation requires Ukrainian Bibletime booklets, then please contact the BES office in Enniskillen.



A Final Thought - Walk in the way of love.

by David Ombeni, WVT

"Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." NIV Ephesians 5: 1-2.

This letter from the Apostle Paul reveals the amazing love of God to His people and the abundance of spiritual blessings that we have in Christ. In Africa there is a great need and opportunity to nurture children, to teach them about the Lord Jesus Christ and to experience His love. Let us therefore walk in the way of love to share with children the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

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