



BES news **Europe** Winter 2022

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It has been two years since the BES News focused on the UK and Europe and these encouraging reports show that there has been growth and development in many areas. The translation of Bibletime into most European languages, along with its design, publication and distribution, are progressing steadily. The pandemic, world economic crisis and political/military unrest has meant that some in-country printing has been necessary. BES has also increased its online presence, which continues to thrive as users download our resources from the BES website and use the SunScool App.

Bibletime material is now available or is being translated into Albanian, Armenian, Croatian, Czech, English, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Tajik (Tajikistan), Turkish, Ukrainian and Welsh.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 has had a substantial effect on the BES family. BES has had very little contact with our coordinator in Ukraine, some workers have fled Russia and many BES partners from the surrounding countries (especially Croatia, Hungary, Moldova, Poland and Romania) have found themselves helping with the humanitarian crisis. This has included in-country printing of the BES material and distributing the specially designed A4 Bibletime booklets to displaced Russian and Ukrainian speaking children and young people. Some BES coordinators and volunteers have been provided with opportunities to teach the Gospel and distribute Bibletime material where there had previously been little or none. Small quantities of the Ukrainian and Russian material have been printed in the BES office for use by the refugees in Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Pray that we might all look to God for His guidance and wisdom to handle each situation that arises, and that the work of BES can continue unhindered in these regions in the future.

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Albania

Lorenc & Gerta Tona

Lorenc and Gerta are the BES coordinators in Albania who started the translation and promotion of Bibletime in their country several years ago. Since the A Series has been translated into Albanian and published, Lorenc has shown the printed material to fellow believers, some of whom have promoted it around the city of Pogradec and into different regions. The Bibletime material is being used in a private Christian school in the Pogradec District, teaching children from 3-14 years of age, and Gospel Literature Outreach (GLO) worker, Juljan, from Vlore has promoted the resources to nine churches in his area. Juljan and his team are involved in youth ministry and have begun to translate the C Series Bibletime lessons, whilst Lorenc continues to work on the B Series.

Pray that once the translation is complete, there will be greater opportunities to raise awareness and promote the Albanian Bibletime lessons to churches and schools across the whole country.

Armenia

Emmaus Team

Earlier this year an Austro-German team flew out to Yerevan, Armenia, to promote and distribute the Armenian Bibletime material. They started to distribute the Bibletime lessons to children living in the high-rise settlements but faced opposition and scepticism because it had not been approved by the state church, the Armenian-Apostolic Church. However, one church minister was very interested, and 100 children are now completing Bibletime in their Sunday School classes.

Pray that future promotional events will be more successful and once parents and children see the Bibletime booklets being used in one church they will want to sign up for the course.



Belarus

'Tim'

This year, the Postal Bible School in Belarus is seven years old. Tim and his small team of young and proactive volunteers continue to post Bibletime lessons to around 3,000 children every month. The postal service can be challenging and a struggle, but technological advancements have enabled the team to be more effective in their communication with students. Each user who registers with them can access their own personal account. This account enables the student to monitor their own learning progress, view the Bibletime lessons they have completed and order gifts with the points they have earned. In June the team held a camp for those aged 10-15 years, called PBS Land. Each child received their own passport for the camp, where there was lots of singing, games, Bible teaching, fellowship and delicious food. It was well attended with over 100 children.

Pray that the team continue to feel energised and joyful in their service to the Lord and for those children engaged in the Bibletime course, that they will absorb the Word of God and find Salvation.

Czech Republic

Karel Ouzky

Despite the entire Bibletime Series having been translated into the Czech language, the promotion of the material has been very difficult. The country's communist background and increased secularism have proved to be the most challenging barriers to its spread and usage. Digital platforms like Facebook, Instagram, SunScool and a modified Bibletime website have helped to promote the availability of the Bibletime material. The small team still communicates with over 100 students from two churches, so praise God for this opportunity.

Pray for resilience, steadfastness and encouragement for those involved in this ministry.

Croatia

Damir and Ivana Strbad

Damir, Ivana and the team have noticed that there has been a decrease in the number of young people attending school, church and Bible clubs, and believe that the Covid-19 pandemic, the previous Croatian war, current Russian/Ukrainian conflict and economic crisis have pushed young Croatians and their families out to Western European countries in search of a better life. They continue to promote Bibletime throughout the churches in Croatia with care as there is conflict and suspicion between the different denominations. However, the arrival of many Ukrainian refugees into the mountainous region of Lika and into the capital Zagreb, have given the team an opportunity to promote the SunScool App and share both the Croatian and Ukrainian Bibletime resources with those involved in youth ministry who would previously have not been interested in the material. They were able to source Ukrainian Bibles through the Gideon Ministry and children's Bibles, picture books and colouring books through the Eastern European Ministry which enabled the children to complete the Bibletime lessons in their own languages. There are reports that some of the refugees have found Salvation, have been baptised and plan to settle in Croatia. Pray that these open doors will continue so that the BES resources and God's Word can be shared.

Pray that Ivana may find someone with computer skills to help her resume the design work of the Bibletime lessons in the future. The final C Series Bibletime lessons have been translated into Croatian and Ivana had begun to design the Level 1 lessons before the demands on her time from family and work became too much and she had to stop.



French Bibletime

Dorothy Seed

This year the team are reviewing the entire C Series in French, with a view to sending new consignments of them to French-speaking Africa in 2023/2024. The project is only at the beginning so pray for Dorothy and her team to find the time in a busy schedule to complete the revision.



Ireland

Gareth & Margaret McMeekin

This autumn the PBS Ireland team returned to the new school term after one of the busiest summers they could remember. Following their summer camp at Ovoca, they held a week called iTeam. This was a week of producing digital resources to compile into presentations to use in support of the BES material both in school and at home. About 20 teens and young adults took part sharing their creative ideas and IT skills as well as learning new ones. Despite the challenges of coordinating this week along with the usual summer camp both ventures were blessed and the Lord helped to use every contribution for His Glory. The joys of being involved in this work were summarised in one young girl's statement when she said, "I came to camp as an atheist and am returning home believing in God."

One of the guests at iTeam was Ruth who is currently visiting from Europe and will spend a year volunteering at PBS Ireland. As Nischal seeks to focus on developing digital resources, Ruth will be able to support him in the educational side of the work while also helping Annie and Margaret with the general office duties.

Some of the team have recently visited 16 schools in Donegal for the prizegiving events, where they were warmly received, and they shared the Gospel with children, teachers and parents. They were also able to take 51 of the summer PBS campers away for a camp reunion in early October.

Gareth says, "The current season is a little quieter, but this time quickly fills up with lessons to be marked, parcels to be posted and the work on digital resources all taking time. Preparations for January prizegiving events have already started even though that is still three months away. We give thanks for all those the Lord has sent to be part of the work this year and look forward to seeing how the Lord will use the lessons, the visits, the camps and the new resources to draw others into His Kingdom. Pray that we are granted the creativity, wisdom and persistence to complete all that the Lord has for us to do, and that we might do it with joy and with purpose."

Pray that despite some of the larger schools choosing not to use the Bibletime resources this year, the opportunity will remain in the current schools. Pray for the older teens who face many obstacles to get their lessons completed. Pray for help to overcome the challenges of engaging with young people through online resources.

Poland

Agata Gaik and CEF

The translation and design of the Bibletime material into Polish happened over 20 years ago but the resources have never been updated. This year, Agata and her team, based in Poland, contacted BES and volunteered to start the translation and editing project to revise the material and bring it up to date. The Level 1 lessons from the A Series have been translated and designed and Level 2 lessons are near completion.

Pray for the project to continue in its momentum and pray that once the updated Polish lessons are officially launched, the children in churches and Bible clubs will enjoy using these attractive resources to learn about God.

CEF (Czeslaw and Konrad) in Poland have distributed thousands of A1-A6 and A7-A12 Ukrainian booklets in all levels. Most of the recently printed Bibletime booklets have been taken to Lutsk in Ukraine. The Kairos school in Poland have distributed them to Ukrainians scattered across Poland. The team have prepared an advert in their quarterly Brethren Magazine promoting the availability of the Ukrainian resources which they expect will attract some interest.

Moldova

Gabriel Hariuc and Matthew Hillier (CMAID)

Gabriel (Gabi) is based in Cahul and distributes the Romanian Bibletime material to eight Christian centres reaching 200 students. These centres are safe places specifically for poorer children who are provided with a hot meal and space to complete their Bibletime lessons and do their homework. Gabi uses the NewLife material with 80-90 inmates in several prisons and recently a prisoner called Dimitru from the prison in Leova came to know the Lord. Gabi also teaches English to 27 students at his local English centre using resources which include the BES material. Since the beginning of 2022, Gabi has been helping the Ukrainian and Russian refugees and has distributed the special A4 size booklets in both languages to those who fled to Moldova. He also travelled directly into Ukraine with humanitarian aid and Bibletime booklets focusing on the cities of Cernoviti, Machacavo and Odessa. He was deeply affected by these visits sometimes enduring hours of interrogation at army check points and witnessing the devastation first hand.

The Bethesda Centre in Zirnesti, owned by CMAID (Christian Mission International Aid), is a five-storey complex with a camp centre, teachers' resource centre, conference facilities, accommodation and storage buildings. Their engagement with the local community has been very effective supplying clothing, food, furniture and other services for needy families out of the love and in the name of Jesus.

The Postal Bible School which is based at the Bethesda Centre use the BES material in the weekly Good News Clubs and at large scale outreaches at Christmas or other special events. For example, in October the PBS team started to show the 'Child of the King' Gospel presentation to children from government schools. Over the next 12 months 9,000 children will view the presentation and interact with the living history display. At the end of it each child is invited to participate in the Bibletime course and is given the first lesson. Most afternoons the team hold and operate 16 children's clubs in the open air or in some of the local primary schools using Bibletime as the main source of material. CMAID have built good relationships with the Ministry of Education in southern Moldova and with many school directors/principals. The schools have allowed the PBS team to place a post box in the lobby so that students who complete the Bibletime lesson can post it there. The boxes are emptied each week, the lessons are collected, marked and returned to the pupil at the next school Bible club. It is working well, and the team have seen an increase in the number of children doing the Romanian Bibletime lessons.

Moldova's proximity to Ukraine has led to much contact with Ukrainian refugees. Over 600,000 refugees are reported to have come through Moldova since the beginning of the war. Many are children. CMAID has been involved in providing for the refugees' practical needs, both to those they had direct contact with and also those being helped by Christians in other parts of the country. They were delighted when BES produced the first A4 Bibletime booklet containing 6 months' worth of material in the Russian and Ukrainian languages. This was ideal for work with the refugees, as often the contact with them was for very short periods of time and they could take 'a collection of lessons' in one booklet with them when they left Moldova. CMAID printed the BES booklets and included the BES resource in their activity packs.

Pray that many refugees will find Salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ. Pray for future discussions with the Education Authority to allow the Bibletime lessons to be used as part of Religious Education teaching. This would require the translation of the Teacher Guidelines into Romanian and consideration of revising the format of the material into a 6 monthly booklet, like the new Ukrainian and Russian booklets.



Romania

Mihaela Vlas

It's 20 years since the Bibletime material was translated into Romanian. It has been used mainly as a correspondence course, sent to individuals by post from the office in Cluj, but also completed by children attending Sunday schools, youth study groups and camps. Students receive prizes four times a year and are provided with a Bible upon request. They currently have 3,400 active students in Romania and have received over 750 new requests for BES resources from children and adults this year. Mihaela has also translated the NewLife booklets and is now using 175 courses monthly, mostly in Bible study groups with young adults. In addition there are 150 prisoners receiving the material in nearly every prison in Romania.



After two years of restrictions, the Onesimus Christian Centre was re-opened in the summer and used to its full potential. The PBS team hosted children, families and church groups, held youth camps and weekend retreats, and it has become a place of rest and joy for many people to praise and learn about the Lord. The team organised two camps which were mainly attended by children from non-Christian families, where they were challenged to receive the Lord as their Saviour and enjoy real life with Him.

Mihaela and the team have been involved in helping the Ukrainian refugees, and the Onesimus Centre has been used to host families on a short-term basis, although there is one family with two children who have been there for nearly 7 months now. The team have been involved in providing food to a hub for refugees in Cluj and took the opportunity to distribute 2,000 Bibletime booklets in Ukrainian to children who were either transiting through Romania or were temporarily settled there. They also gave Bibletime booklets to children in several Ukrainian towns, namely Cernauti, Odessa and Harkov when helping with transport and food aid into Ukraine.

Mihaela says that they have seen the wonderful way the Lord has worked, adding both blessings and challenges, year after year, to the PBS work in her country. **Pray the Lord will continue to make them a blessing to many in these times of need and uncertainty through the usage of the BES material and through the provision of the Onesimus Christian Centre.**



Romania (Hungarian)

Csaba Kabai

During 2004 the translation of Bibletime lessons from English into Hungarian began, and in 2006, 150 Bibletime lessons were mailed out to Hungarian speaking children living in Romania. Revival Movement print and ship the Hungarian Bibletime lessons to the Postal Bible School in Oradea, run by Csaba and his wife, Eniko. They reach over 250 Hungarian children in 18 different regions across the country and hold prize-givings and a summer camp for children every year. Lately, it has become increasingly difficult to obtain stamps to send the Bibletime lessons through the post to the students, so prayers are needed for creative ways to maintain contact with the children and get the material to them.

Life has changed for Csaba and his family since the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and they have become involved in helping the refugees. Csaba has driven over 20,000 km this year with numerous trips to the Romanian/Ukrainian border and into Ukraine itself with humanitarian aid and Ukrainian Bibletime booklets. As a result of the invasion there was very little Ukrainian Christian literature available outside of Ukraine, so Csaba began to download and print the Ukrainian Bibletime lessons himself, but soon discovered they ran out too quickly. BES specially designed two A4 size booklets, which each contained 6 months' worth of material. These were printed locally and allowed children who had been displaced from their homes to have access to a larger amount of Christian material in their own language. Csaba continues to attend two refugee centres in Oradea where he regularly tells children and adults about Jesus and introduces them to the new Bibletime booklets.

Pray that Csaba, Eniko and their four children will trust in God's promises, rely on Him for financial support and be strengthened and refreshed with a new enthusiasm for the work in their own Postal Bible School.

Russia

PBS team in Russia

For the past 18 years the Postal Bible School (PBS) team in Russia have been able to bring the Word of God to children using Bibletime, or 'Bible Hour' as it is known in the Russian language. This year, the Postal Bible School has seen another increase in teachers, markers and students, and currently the team send out 4,500 Bibletime booklets each year to 22 regions throughout Russia. Many parents have written letters of gratitude about the spiritual growth of their children and about the fact that children love the Word of God and study it with great interest. The team reports that the mature students, who have their own children, want to use the BES resources in their churches and with their own families at home which also attracts unbelieving and unchurched children. This is especially valuable!

The Russian website is very popular, where users can get acquainted with the history of the PBS, the rules of training, as well as view the entire 'Bible Hour' syllabus online. The team know that many churches, including the Orthodox Church, are actively downloading and using the BES material. As most of the population has a smart phone or mobile device many Russian children complete the lessons in the mobile application SunScool or 'VoSchool' and statistics show that adults are interested in it too! The SunScool team are developing the platform further to allow an electronic review of the child's work. This will be a huge breakthrough for the PBS team because it will reduce their printing and postage costs and they will no longer have to rely upon the postal system.

The team is saddened by the events which have taken place in Ukraine and on the Russian/Ukrainian border. They report that contact with their Ukrainian friends, colleagues and students is now impossible and their own church attendance has decreased as male members are summoned to fight in the Russian military. This brings such grief to all families and churches affected. A new Russian law has been introduced which prohibits missionary activity. Pastors are now wary of holding evangelical events where the 'Bible Hour' material would have been advertised and promoted.

Pray for the team and their families who are based in the St Petersburg office. Pray for the entire PBS and SunScool team in Russia as they endure social, economic and financial hardships. Due to the international sanctions the PBS and SunScool ministries are suffering as financial support is cut off, and families are ripped apart, enduring so much loss, when husbands and fathers are forced to enlist in the army. Pray that peace and stability will be restored soon.





Russia

SunScool App and the team in Russia (Nikolay Abkairova)

Prior to the Russian invasion into Ukraine, the SunScool project team were scattered across the globe working remotely, but many were concentrated in Eastern Europe, especially in Russia and Ukraine. The situation in Russia and events which unfolded caused them huge personal heartache and while some of the team have remained in Russia others have left. Matfey, Olga, Johann, Sergey and their entire families fled from Russia and moved to Peru. Nikolay was able to visit them over the summer.

Despite the upheaval and financial uncertainty, work on the SunScool App has continued. The team enhanced the translation and voiceover online editor which made it easier for volunteers to record and send work back to them. All 576 lessons in English and Russian have been added to the App and are fully voiced over in both languages. All the Bibletime lessons in Ukrainian have been added, but voiceovers for the C Series still need recording. Their aim is to translate all the Bibletime material in 20 languages within the next 4 years. At the moment SunScool supports 17 languages. They have also improved the games and Bible text support within the App making it more attractive and easier for users to access and play. The App usage remains consistent with between 7,000-10,000 children accessing SunScool each month. Over the last 6 years the SunScool App has been installed 456,000 times. Over 2 million lessons have been completed by users spending over 363,000 hours learning the Word of God.

One user shared this feedback recently, "I just wanted to take a minute and say thank you so much for SunScool. We experienced the loss of our youngest son as a stillborn and it devastated our family. I used to have faith that I never questioned and didn't doubt no matter what. That changed when my son died. I have a son who was excited to be a big brother and who is now 7. I missed telling him about God and teaching him how to pray because I was full of grief and angry at God. I looked all over but couldn't find a thing that covered the Bible the way this App does. It is extremely thorough but on a great level for each age group. It's also FREE when other "curriculums" are very insubstantial, scrape over the highlights of the Bible and cost several hundred dollars. So again, thank you for such an amazing resource. It's worth every bit of what the others charge but much better. If I had money to donate right now, you'd certainly have it."

Pray for the SunScool team and all those who have friends, family and colleagues in Ukraine and Russia. Pray for all the children who access the App that the Word of God will challenge their hearts and minds and impact their lives.

Spanish Bibletime

Gil & Carolyn Vargas

The translation of the BES materials into Spanish is continuing and is a huge team effort. In 2018 they finished the first revision of the entire Bibletime syllabus in A4 format to bring them up to date. In 2020, the team translated the A1-A6 booklet and Teacher Guidelines into Spanish. A container of Spanish Bibletime material was shipped to Venezuela in December 2021 by Revival Movement and is currently being used there by thousands of children. There is great interest from many other South American countries including Argentina, Bolivia and Chile but due to civil unrest and issues with customs, it is impossible to ship there at the moment. As a result, the first 10,000 copies of the A1-A6 Spanish booklets have been printed within Argentina itself, and there is great anticipation and excitement for the resources to be released and used.

Pray for future funding to allow for more in-country printing projects to take place. Pray for the translation of the A7-A12 booklets and Teacher Guidelines into Spanish which will bless and encourage young people across the globe to study the Word of God.



Turkey 'Ibrahim'

Ibrahim and the small team have translated the entire Bibletime series and Teacher Guidelines into Turkish and the availability of the resources are being promoted via social media, websites and through the use of the SunScool App. The Bulgarian church of Turkish speakers have organised a children's club once a month and they are using the BES material. The response from the younger children has been very encouraging as they enjoy listening to the Bible stories and filling in the puzzles and completing the games in the Bibletime worksheets.

The SunScool App is very popular among Turkish children who use it on their smart phones and can complete the digital Bibletime puzzles and games anywhere. The Turkish Bibletime booklets have been distributed to students and teachers scattered across the country and this year, they were used by over 227 children and 113 teachers/helpers during the four summer camps.

Pray for the many children living in towns and cities who have not yet heard the Gospel, and for those who have, pray that they will trust in the Lord despite the opposition they may encounter. Many believers can face imprisonment and rejection by family and friends in a predominantly Muslim nation. Pray for health, safety and peace for all those team members involved in this ministry.

Ukraine

Emmaus Team

When Russia invaded western parts of Ukraine, many families and Emmaus / BES workers fled east or into neighbouring countries for safety, and contact was lost with many markers. Pavel, the main BES contact who is an Emmaus worker, remained in the country and as regions have slowly stabilised, he has started to reach out to old contacts and recruit new workers. Amazingly, the BES work has continued in areas where there has been little or no conflict, and a handful of children's summer camps were held. At bazaars and other outdoor events volunteers have continued to promote and distribute the BES resources with colouring books and Bibles to children and teenagers.

Pray for stability and a return to peace so that lives can be rebuilt. Pray for more people to hear about BES and use the resources to teach their children the Word of God. Pray for a coordinator for Ukrainian children living in Western Europe.

Scotland

PBS Orkney. PBS Orkney is based in Kirkwall, which is Orkney's largest town. The PBS is run by Mervyn and his wife, Eileen, and serves 19 students by post. There are 14 children and 5 adults using the Bibletime and Going Deeper material for their own personal study.

PBS Scotland. Sarah McKenzie reports that the work has continued despite the sudden passing of Jean Stott, her friend, secretary, and coordinator of PBS Scotland at the end of 2021. This year, 22 children, 10 teenagers and 4 adults received prizes as they studied the Word of God using the BES resources. Sarah says, "We are encouraged to see a number of new requests coming in and with our updated publicity material being made available in many new outlets, we trust the number of students will increase in the future. Some families have been completing the lessons regularly over many years and it is so good to see their progress through the different levels. We are indebted to our markers, who are so dependable, willing and giving positive feedback to the students. We also supply lessons to two groups who use them to suit their own particular setting."

Wales

PBS South Wales. Stephen and Gwyneth send the Bibletime material to 20 local students. Over the years they have had over 400 pupils but many of these were international students from the African nations and an unreliable postal service stopped much of the correspondence. Our most recent statistics show that there were over 14,232 Welsh Bibletime lessons downloaded from the BES website in 2022. Praise God!

Northern Ireland

The four Postal Bible School centres in Northern Ireland supply 173 controlled primary schools with Bibletime for use in their Religious Education lessons. As there are 450 controlled and integrated primary schools in the north, Bibletime is being used in 37% of this sector of NI Schools which is very encouraging.

PBS Belfast. Janet reports that PBS Belfast supply 16 schools (4,100 children) with Bibletime each month and send out to 50 postal students. Pray that more primary schools which have been visited within the Belfast area will take up the offer of using the Lessons.

PBS Northeast. Over 4,400 school and home students receive the Bibletime material supplied by Ivan and his team. They send the resources to over 30 schools and afterschool Bible Clubs and are visiting each school with Teacher packs to promote the Bibletime lessons further.

PBS Fermanagh and Tyrone. Louise sends out lessons to 44,000 children who are doing Bibletime in Northern Ireland schools. Over 2,000 Bibles have been sent to 59 schools to help children complete the Level 3 Bibletime lessons. In May, gifts of stationery were given to all school children and teachers doing Bibletime and special prizes were awarded to home students who had completed 10 years of Bibletime. They held their PBS Summer Camp this year, and over 120 campers, leaders and helpers were involved in this fun and exciting week singing praise to the Lord, hearing the Word of God and reinforcing that learning through quizzes, games and memory verses.

PBS Schools. Joe and Ruth supply two primary schools with Bibletime resources reaching 165 children. Praise God for their dedication and steadfastness as they have served the Lord in this ministry for many years.

England

PBS CEF, London. Rachel has approximately 40 active students, some of whom are home schooled, and some are from a non-church background. The ministry is growing which is very positive. Rachel runs the PBS while her husband is involved in holding assemblies and running CEF Good News Clubs at local schools.



PBS Dorset. Stephen reports that they have 270 postal students which is encouraging. Most of the new applications have come through personal recommendation, students who are now home schooling and others have been referred from the BES website in parts of the country where there is no Postal Bible School Centre. The new design of monthly A4 Bibletime lessons with the character illustrations have been popular and those students who are using the Bibletime Going Deeper lessons are finding the design helpful and more attractive. The Going Deeper Series is slowly replacing the NewLife syllabus. Grace Goulding continues to do most of the work in running the Postal Bible School dealing with students and markers. Several adults are still working their way through the five-year Gleaners course, and those who have completed it have now embarked on Emmaus Courses. They are thankful for a team of 21 markers who are faithful in their marking and offering encouragement to the students in their feedback.

Pray for teenagers who are finding it difficult to fit in Bibletime with their school and college studies. Pray that those at secondary school, who are not linked to a church or Christian youth group, will continue to spend time with the Lord each day even if they are not using the BES material to study God's Word.

England (continued)

PBS Norfolk. Colin reports that Norfolk Postal Bible School (NPBS) began in the county in the early 1970s and was introduced to the public at the Norfolk Agricultural Show in the 'Good News' tent. They have maintained a steady number of students over the years of between 120 and 140. NPBS have found that as the pressure of schoolwork becomes too much for some students, they cease to continue with their Bibletime course. Eighteen teachers handle and mark the lessons for the students in their 'class'. Teachers meet three times a year, either in person or on Zoom, for prayer, discussion and planning, which includes an AGM and fish and chip supper in January!

NPBS use the full range of BES resources, including one of the original BES publications called Manna. They find this a helpful tool for those with little or no Bible knowledge, although Bibletime Going Deeper is an attractive and easy to use alternative resource. Points are awarded as lessons are completed and vouchers given for points accumulated. At the end of the year, certificates are presented to those completing eight or more lessons in a year. Approximately 17% of their 128 students are over 18 years of age and whilst the majority are from Norfolk and Suffolk, there is a handful from far afield including Leicester, Somerset, London and Shropshire.

NPBS attended the two-day Royal Norfolk Show outside Norwich this year where over 1,000 'goody' bags for young people were given away, all containing information about NPBS. One of the young PBS teachers dressed as a Roman centurion which gave him an opportunity to speak about that Bible character. His picture appeared in the local regional newspaper the next day standing next to the banner displaying John 3:16. A family day was held in May this year in Norwich for students, parents and friends, with games and activities, lunch and a round-up to finish the event off in the early afternoon. It was good to be able to reach out into the community again with these outreach events after the restrictions of Covid and the lockdowns.

PBS Kingfisher. Ady and Kirsty have 120 active students and a very committed group of teachers who also mark for other Postal Bible Schools. They are greatly encouraged by the new A4 design of Bibletime lessons and love the redesign of Bibletime Going Deeper.

PBS Living Word. The local North Staffs and South Cheshire Centre started in 1997. David and Susan have overseen this work since it was first called Postal Sunday School and have worked diligently in this children's ministry for many years. Praise God for the students they remain in contact with and for those who support them in the team.

PBS UBM. Tirzah and the team have 400 registered students, of whom 250 are regularly active. They have a comprehensive database that can produce analytical summaries and letter templates for the team, teachers and students. For inactive students they send a reminder after six months. PBS UBM receive 15% of their new applications for material from the summer beach outreach events.

PBS Words of Life. Paul and Elizabeth have 150 regular students, the majority of whom are from Christian homes. Due to dwindling numbers they no longer hold a yearly camp or annual fun day but continue to send prizes to those who complete their Bibletime lessons and reach certain milestones. They appreciate the newly designed BES material and promote the SunScool App where they can.

PBS Yorkshire Camps. Hannah and the team reach 1,000 children annually with a vision to reach 2,000, although there are only 50 students who currently do the Bibletime lessons. On site they have offices and a yearly intern programme training a maximum of 12 students for service and using their gifts at the camps to run the programmes. The staff all live by faith with no fixed salary. They used to run the Bibletime club through UBM but since January 2022, have brought this in-house as they want to see it grow and develop. They have schools coming for residential and the schools are happy for their children to engage in a Christian programme. For those students who complete the Bibletime booklets, a prize list is sent to them so they can choose their rewards. The team hope to promote Bibletime to some local rural schools and use the material during residential and other outreach events.



Other News

Bibletime resources are now available from the BES website in German, Italian and Tajik (spoken in Tajikistan).

Bibletime GOING DEEPER. The Bibletime Going Deeper Study will replace the NewLife Course. It remains a three-year comprehensive study of the main truths of the Christian faith designed for teenagers and adults. The A Series, which covers The Bible, Salvation, The Christian Life and The Church, has been revised, edited and redesigned with updated graphics to make it more attractive and appealing for young Christians. The B Series, which focuses on the Trinity; God The Father, God The Son and God The Holy Spirit is being reviewed and modified at the moment.

Level 0 booklet. These 6 booklets have been produced in English only and we recommend they are printed in A4 size to enable young children (under 5 years) to complete them. The A and B Series booklets are complete, and once C Series is finalised early next year, they will be available to download from the BES website. They contain the same material as the A4 Bibletime lessons but do not contain the BES & Friends character illustrations.

LMS update. All 14 modules within the Learning Management System (BES digital training platform) are complete in English and development of other languages is continuing. Translation work, video subtitling and production is ongoing in French, Portuguese and Swahili. Pray for wisdom as the final setup is navigated for each of the language groups to ensure that the system will be easily accessible for our partners across the world. Bespoke training sessions over Zoom and face to face BES training sessions in-country have been completed, including one in Moldova with CMIAid. Pray that as training continues to cascade from trained trainers, the end users will be equipped, upskilled and envisioned to reach the next generation.



BES Deputation opportunity

BES would be happy to speak to your church or organisation via video conferencing or in person to tell them more about the work of BES here in the UK and around the world. If you would like to arrange this with us or require more information, **please contact Sam Balmer at sam@besweb.com**



A Final Thought

by Stephen Gillham

“The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must never go out” (Leviticus 6: 13).

This was God's instruction to the priests who worked in the Tabernacle in the desert wanderings of the Israelites. Fire always speaks of the presence of God as Moses found at the burning bush and on Mt Sinai, and maybe the continuous fire would remind the Israelites that God was always with them. We too can know His continual presence.

We have all met people who are on fire for God, continuously burning and never going out. But we also know how easy it is for the fire in our lives to be feeble or dwindle and almost fade. How we all need to **“fan into flame the gift that is in us” (2 Timothy 1: 6)** as we know the constant presence of the Lord. Today there is such a need for men and women in His Service to be on **“fire for God!”**

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

Editor and Secretary of Trust:

Stephen Gillham -
stephen.gillham@besweb.com

International Director:

Sam Balmer - sam@besweb.com

BES Ambassador:

Bert Gray - bert@besweb.com

UK BES Trustees: Sam Balmer, Stephen Gillham, Pam Harknett, Allison Hill, Stuart Price, DJ Watts and Pamela Rainey.

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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 finance@besweb.com

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