



BES news

Asia Prayer and Praise & 2024 Conference in Northern Ireland

Winter 2023

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Greetings and Opening Remarks from Sam Balmer

Welcome to the latest edition of BES News in which we will bring prayer and praise points on BES work in Asia. We are also thrilled to promote the upcoming BES International Conference to be held in Northern Ireland in Spring 2024. As we plan and prepare to host delegates from all over the world, our minds go to the Scripture Paul wrote, ***“We are labourers together with God” 1 Corinthians 3:9 KJV.***

BES has a vast network of co-workers in more than 65 countries worldwide. They work with us to spread the Gospel and mentor children and youth in over 40 languages with the Bibletime resources. Our brothers and sisters in Christ often make great personal sacrifices, knowing they ultimately partner with God. The International Conference serves as a platform for these dedicated individuals to come together for a time of encouragement, friendship, fellowship, training, and teaching.

- In 2008 we had 16 delegates from 7 Countries.
- In 2011 we had 35 delegates from 20 Countries.
- In 2015 we had 73 delegates from 30 Countries.
- In 2019 we had 130 delegates from 50 Countries.

In our past Conferences, the Lord has wonderfully met all our needs, and we received abundant support from many believers, who, like BES, aimed to bless our “partners in the Gospel”. Our hosts provided accommodation for sleeping and meetings, while churches, individuals, and local businesses supplied food and transportation. Furthermore, trusts, churches, and individuals offered financial aid, and others utilised their speaking, media, and praise skills.

We are excited to share our plans for the fifth International Conference, which will be more focused and tailored to specific partners and workers. Our goal is to have 80 representatives from 45 countries attend. We would greatly appreciate your assistance in any of the areas mentioned in this edition of BES News. If you’re available and interested, please let us know. Most importantly, we request your support through prayer as we seek Divine guidance and wisdom for this event.



Looking Back: BES International Conference 2019

In April 2019, BES organised its fourth and largest International Conference in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland. The Conference brought together 130 workers from 50 different countries for a memorable week of teaching and fellowship. We were inspired and excited to hear about the impact of Bibletime material around the world, and delegates gained valuable insights from networking and sharing their experiences with one another. The programme was packed with practical seminars, training, and discussions. Toward the end of the week, BES hosted a wonderful International Night where people from all tribes, tongues, and nations came together to worship and praise God and learn about what He was doing around the world.

During the Conference, we were pleased to learn that the work of BES was expanding, and more children were learning about God through Bibletime lessons. However, the main challenges were maintaining continuity and meeting the high demand for Bibletime resources, which was already putting pressure on the Revival Movement Press. Some delegates told us that they struggled with completing translations, while others faced opposition to spreading the Gospel. Despite these challenges, we were encouraged by the dedication and commitment of Bibletime coordinators who persevered to ensure that children in their countries could access the booklets. Bibletime is a valuable resource that fills a gap where few materials exist for children's ministry. As we shared reports, experiences, and prayers, we were all uplifted and united in our mission to reach the next generation with the knowledge and love of Christ.

"To hear about how the work is growing around the world was so uplifting yet challenging. To discuss with fellow workers how their operations worked was a real help and blessing. Thank you ALL so much for the sacrifice, effort and loving service put into making this Conference the tremendous success it was!" **Pete and Elaine Smith, Canada & St Lucia**

"To all helpers and BES staff. Your selfless help, love and friendliness have made these days a great foretaste of heaven. I have been greatly encouraged." **Andreas Reh, Austria**

"We really enjoyed the wonderful fellowship. Our bodies, souls and spirits were refreshed and blessed by the Conference. Our prayers are with you and the great ministry you are doing for the Kingdom of God." **Rejoy and Mini, India**

"Many thanks for a Conference that was so informative and challenging and offered great opportunities to meet fellow workers from so many countries and backgrounds! We have been truly blessed, and having listened to what problems others are facing, we are privileged to pray more intelligently for one another." **Ruth and David Harvey, Philippines**

"We have been blessed physically, spiritually and materially. For the very first time, we've come to live and share with so many people from different nations. I thank all the Trustees for the love and sacrifice made on our behalf. The memories will remain fresh in our minds. May God abundantly bless and reward you all." **Noel Tanekeu, Cameroon**



Looking Forward: BES International Conference 2024

The much-awaited Conference is fast approaching, and so the preparations have begun. The event aims to provide attendees with a valuable opportunity to interact with their colleagues, build connections, and acquire useful knowledge about training methods, safeguarding laws, and advancements in the field of children's work. It is essential to ensure that all logistical aspects such as accommodation, catering, travel, scheduling, and session planning are meticulously taken care of. As the time of the Conference draws closer, there is a growing sense of excitement and anticipation among us all, and we are all eager to make the most of this wonderful occasion.

Dates: 29th May - 5th June 2024

Venue: Enniskillen, Northern Ireland

The schedule for the 2024 Conference includes a wide range of seminars, training sessions, and discussions that are practical in nature. Additionally, attendees will have some free time to explore the local tourist attractions and historical landmarks.

The theme of the 2024 Conference will be as follows:

- **Connected to Christ** - Each day will begin with challenging and inspirational devotional talks, accompanied by praise and worship.
- **Compassion for Children** - In these morning sessions, various speakers will be discussing best practices for teaching children, as well as ways to ensure their safety and well-being. We'll cover lesson planning, available resources, and strategies for building positive relationships with students. The teaching will be followed by practical workshops where delegates can participate and interact with others in their area of expertise.
- **Co-operation with Co-workers** - These afternoon seminars are designed to inspire thought-provoking discussions for all participants. They will focus on spiritual growth, effective team management, accountability to others and maintaining good mental health. Delegates will engage in interactive breakout sessions following these forums, where they will have the opportunity to actively participate and collaborate with fellow attendees.

We will be delighted to welcome back those who have previously attended Conferences from countries and organisations where BES work is well established, including Albania, Austria, Brazil, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Canada, DRC, Egypt, Ethiopia, Germany,

Ghana, Hungary, India, Ireland, Kenya, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Spain, Tanzania, Turkey, Ukraine, USA, UK, Zimbabwe, and Zambia.



It would also be wonderful to have BES representatives from countries that are passionate about expanding the work, but where Bibletime translation, design, printing, and distribution are still in the early stages. This applies to nations such as Armenia, Argentina, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Chad, Mali, Mongolia, Malawi, and Myanmar.



International Night

7.30 pm Friday 31st May 2024
@ Fermanagh Christian Fellowship
(FCF), Enniskillen. (kindly granted)

You are invited to attend an International Reporting Evening where delegates will share updates on their work and present future ideas for the development of Bibletime in their respective countries. This will be a great opportunity to witness how children of various languages are being reached.

We hope to see you there!



How can you help?

BES are blessed to have such a dedicated and committed staff team who make these events such a blessing. We would value prayer as we determine the impending needs and challenges of the Conference.

Would you consider contributing towards the travel costs or sponsoring an international delegate?

Could you host a delegate or serve lunch and refreshments during the breaks? If so, please get in touch with us at louise@besweb.com



Pray that many volunteers will come forward to assist in:

- Catering (serving lunch, and refreshments)
- Minibus supply and driving
- Hosting (provide a bed, breakfast and light supper for the delegates during their stay)



Pray for the financial challenges faced, including the costs of flights, visas, catering and transport.

Pray for the delegates as they apply for visas to attend the Conference. The visa application process appears to be more stringent and complicated, with a particular concern about overstaying or not returning home.



We are thankful for the positive and evolving relationship between BES, Emmaus International, Ireland Outreach, Revival Movement, Teens for Christ, Sunschool, ZAM and many others who hope to attend the Conference. Pray that our partnerships will remain united in Christ.



Prayer is also requested for:

- God's presence during our time together
- Spiritual encouragement for all who attend
- Safe travel and protection
- Speakers and other experts in their field
- Media and praise team
- BES trustees and staff

A very generous donor has contacted us and is willing to donate

up to £30,000 match funding towards the BES Conference in May 2024.

This means that for every £1 you give towards the conference before 31 December 2023, the donor will add another £1.

We praise God for this wonderful provision as we bring key partners together to further develop their work with Bibletime.

If you think you may be able to help with this, then please contact Pam at: finance@besweb.com

Alternatively, please make cheques payable to Bible Educational Services.
Post to BES, 37 Belmore Street, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh. BT74 6AA

Or send a bank transfer:

BES Bank details: Account Name: Bible Educational Services. Account Number: 27207501. Sort Code: 54-21-33 (NatWest).
For overseas transfers outside of the UK: IBAN (International Bank Account Number): GB27NWBK54213327207501.



Prayer & Praise from Asia



Bibletime is well established in many languages across India, including Bengali, Hindi, Malayalam, Telugu and Tamil. However, it is also inspiring to see the increasing usage of Bibletime in many other indigenous languages across the continent, where there is great opposition to the spread of the Gospel.

Translation work is ongoing for languages such as Bengali, Burmese, Falam Chin, Khmer, Mongolian, Nepalese, and Urdu. Significant progress has been made in several countries, including Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan where thousands of A Series Bibletime booklets have been printed and are being used by children.

While the growth of this work in Asia requires much prayer, we are grateful to God for providing translators, designers, teachers, and all those who are passionate about spreading the Word of God to the next generation.

Bangladesh



Praise God for the growth in numbers of children using Bibletime to study God's Word and pray that each of these children will come to know Jesus as their personal Saviour. The Bengali Bibletime resources are used by over 300 children through the Bangladesh Bible Correspondence School (BDBCS) and some Sunday Schools.



Pray the team can maintain contact with students and potentially increase their reach into the community through social media platforms.



Cambodia



Praise God for the unity and steadfastness of Insun and Youmi as they translate and design the Bibletime material into Khmer. Pray that as they have sought comfort and strength from the Lord in all that they do, He will bless them in this project.



Pray for opportunities to train and equip teachers with these amazing resources to enable them to disciple children in God's Word. Pray for more volunteers to be drawn to this ministry.



China



Praise God that the first part of the A Series is now available to download from the BES website.



Pray for the proofreading of the entire Bibletime syllabus in Chinese amidst security issues. Pray for the safety and protection of all those involved in this ongoing project.



India



Pray as a busy agenda begins to spread Bibletime to various tribes and denominations in the northern Indian states, starting in Trivandrum (Kerala State), then travelling to Gujarat, and later at a Conference in Rajasthan State. Pray for Divine appointments and opportunities to introduce Bibletime to a diverse audience in different languages, particularly Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. Pray for safety and security as some of the team travel to Nepal in November to promote Bibletime to teachers and connect with other partners there.



Bibletime booklets in English and Tamil have been sent to Sri Lanka for potential translation into Sinhala. Pray for guidance and a translation and design team who understand the 3-year commitment they will be making if they undertake this project.



Praise God for the recent printing of Bibletime in Bengali, Telugu and Tamil. Praise God that the translation of all the booklets into Telugu is now complete.



Pray for the translation, proofreading and design of the B series booklets in Bengali and the C Series booklets in Tamil.



Myanmar



Pray for the translation of the Bibletime booklets in both Falam Chin and Burmese. The small and dedicated team aim to complete both translation projects by the end of 2023.



Due to the escalating civil war, the children's Bible club cannot be conducted publicly. However, praise God that the BES programme, known as "Children's Bible Correspondence", has proven to be useful and effective and many children have been reached throughout the country using the underground network.



Praise God that thousands of Bibletime booklets and Teacher Guidelines have been printed within the country and despite the ongoing violence and unrest many students are still being educated using these resources.



Malaysia



English Bibletime is currently being used in some Sunday Schools which print the material themselves, but there is great enthusiasm to translate it 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.



Mongolia



Praise God for the translation of the C Series Bibletime material into Mongolian. The team have made great progress and only the final 2 levels remain to be translated. Pray for a new translator and editor after Sara went home to be with the Lord after a long illness.



Thank God for the 4,000 children who complete the Bibletime course every month. Over 60 churches are involved in using the resource. Pray for more opportunities for children to learn about Jesus.



Praise God for the teacher training which took place in the Springtime with Stevie Walls from BES in the UK and some teachers over Zoom. The Sunday School teachers are delighted with the Teacher Guidelines and really love the Bibletime resource.



Nepal



Praise God that 3,500 copies of A Series Bibletime in Nepali were printed in June 2023. Pray for the challenges of rising inflation and high paper costs as more booklets across all levels are scheduled to be published later this year.



Pray for the challenges of reaching children with Nepali Bibletime living in remote and poor areas. They are prioritising distributing the booklets to churches and communities without any Sunday School materials and are working hard to achieve this quickly and efficiently.



Pakistan



Praise God that 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.



Praise God for more than 1,000 children who are studying the Bible regularly using the Bibletime booklets in English through Sunday Schools and Christian Schools. The Care Channels Learning Centre (CCLC) is one of the biggest users of Bibletime in English, and 800 children use it 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.

A Final Thought

by Stephen Gillham

We are all familiar with the events on Mt Carmel in the days of Elijah, and the conquest between the prophets of Baal and Elijah. (1 Kings 18) The prophets of Baal went first, making an altar with a sacrifice and seeking their god to send fire, but despite their efforts all day, their increasingly loud prayers and all manner of antics there was absolutely no response. This shows the deadness and valuelessness of their god. Then Elijah went to work.

He repaired the altar of the Lord. Our first priority in His service is always to restore and revive our relationship with the Lord.

He poured water on the altar, the offering and the wood. This may remind us of the essential water of the prayers of God's people in support of any service which we do for Him.

He stepped forward and publicly prayed. We can't rely just on the prayers of God's people; it is that personal prayer of a righteous man which is powerful and effective. (James 5: 16) It took courage and was a tremendous testimony of Elijah to stand in front of this vast crowd and cry with passion and urgency to His God.

The fire of the Lord fell immediately and burned up the sacrifice, and everything linked with the altar.

The people were moved to cry, "The Lord He is God."

How we long to see the evidence of the fire of the Lord from heaven and the moving of people, children and adults to cry in repentance to the Living God. The example of Elijah, a man just like us, will surely challenge us to seek the mighty moving of our God in these days. Later he prayed again, and the heavy rain came. As these hymn lyrics say...



*"There shall be showers of blessing;
O that today they might fall,
Now as to God we're confessing,
Now as on Jesus we call!"*

*Showers of blessing,
Showers of blessing we need;
Mercy drops round us are falling,
But for the showers we plea."*

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Next BES News in
Summer 2024
will focus on the BES 2024 Conference.

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