

Weekly

Prayer Diary

2025-2027





Mission

Producing Bible lessons for partners to present the truth of Jesus Christ to the next generation worldwide.

Vision

To reach the next generation with our full curriculum in their own language by developing and supporting a global network of committed partners.

Bible Educational Services (BES) writes, designs, edits and publishes Bibletime, Bibletime Going Deeper and Gleaners Bible studies in English and 45 other languages.

The BES Resources are unique because they are prepared with individual or group study in mind. They may be obtained in English from the BES office, a Postal Bible School (PBS) Centre, or a BES partner or downloaded from the website: **www.besweb.com**. They are also available on the website in many other languages. Schools, churches, Sunday Schools, holiday Bible clubs and other outreach programmes are increasingly using the resources. They follow a planned syllabus which allows students to complete a weekly study for up to 20 years.

BES works in partnership with other ministries involved in the translation, design, publishing and distribution of BES material worldwide.

NOTE: Unless stated differently, the term 'Christian' in each country overview refers to either its nominal or evangelical meaning.



Ambassadors, Founders, Trustees and Editing Groups

These groups are in much need of **prayer** for direction, wisdom and guidance in their various areas of responsibility within BES.

- **Pray** for our Founders, Bert and Wendy Gray, who started the Postal Bible School in Southern Ireland in 1958. We are grateful for their continued support and interest in BES. **Pray** for their health and well-being as they grow older. **Give thanks** to God for David BhakiaRaj who supports and assists Bert in the ministry.
- **Pray** for our Ambassador, Stephen Gillham. He has been involved with Bibletime for over 35 years as a Trustee, Secretary of the Trust and main Editor until his retirement in 2024. **Praise** God that he continues to report on BES activities in churches and wherever his ministry takes him, particularly in the South of England. **Pray** for strength and well-being in the days ahead. **Pray** for Trustees Allison Hill (Scotland), DJ Watts (England), John Aitken (England), Pam Harknett (England), Pam Rainey (Northern Ireland), Sam Balmer (Northern Ireland), and Stuart Price (Wales). **Pray** for their families who support them in their work and ministries. **Pray** for wisdom, so they may make wise choices and good decisions aligned with the Lord's will, extending His Kingdom and bringing glory to His name.
- **Pray** for Allison Hill, Alison Somerville, Liza McMeekin and Rosemary Hall, who edit Bibletime, Bibletime Going Deeper, and the Teacher Guidelines.
- **Praise** God for Glenda Magee and her dedication to updating and editing the Bibletime resources over the past eight years. Her contributions have been invaluable.
- Meet the Advisory group Andreas Reh (Austria), Bert Gray (Wales), Ian Burness (England), Jill Silverthorne (England), Nikolay Abkairov (USA / Russia), Noel McMeekin (Republic of Ireland), Samuel Adams (Northern Ireland), Steve McDonald (Wales) and Tamás Bozsóki (Hungary). Praise God for their skills, professionalism and dedication to BES for the glory of God.



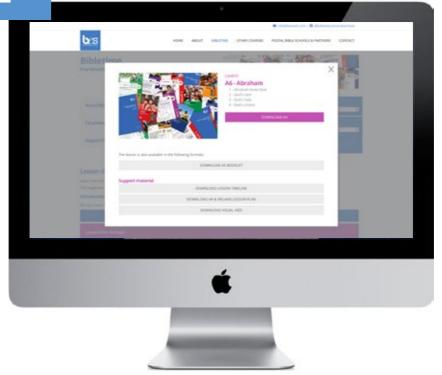
BES Team

BES relies on the dedication and expertise of professionally gifted individuals who work hard to produce high-quality, God-honouring resources. Key roles include our Executive Director, Finance Officer, Graphic Designers, International Development Manager, and Operations Manager.

- **Praise** God for Sam Balmer (Executive Director) for his unwavering commitment and dedication to this busy and growing ministry. **Pray** for the grace of time, energy and the management skills required to oversee this expanding organisation. **Give thanks** to God for the support he receives from his wife, Louise.
- Praise God for Steve McDonald, our UK Graphic Designer and Web Developer. He is responsible for
 designing the A4 and A5 English resources and other associated promotional material. Praise God for the
 gift of creative skills which Steve continues to use for God's glory. Pray for his wife Kate and their children,
 Noah, Sylvie and Gwen.
- Tamás and his wife, Szilvia are based in Budapest. **Praise** God for Tamás' gifts as he designs A4 and A5 Bibletime booklets in over 20 languages, the most recent being Croatian and Slovenian. **Pray** for strength, enthusiasm and wisdom in this ongoing, challenging work.
- Praise God for the BES staff based in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland Angela Johnston, the Operations
 Manager, Alison Somerville (UK and Ireland Resources), Pamela Rainey (Volunteer Finance Officer) and
 Rebekah Mullan (Social Media Coordinator). Many of these roles require effective communication, problemsolving, precision and a keen eye for detail to ensure smooth and efficient processes are in place. Praise
 God for their dedication, efficiency, organisational and professional approach.
- Praise God for Stevie Walls, the International Development Manager. He is based in Belfast, is married
 to Claire, and has two children, Reuben and Naomi. Praise God for his dedication, professionalism and
 teaching background to drive the development of the BES training programme. He achieves this by using
 an LMS (Learning Management System) and by delivering bespoke training packages. Pray for safety
 when travelling overseas.

Veek

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BES Website

Steve McDonald manages the BES website, which was redesigned and updated in 2021. The BES Bibletime resources and support materials including the Visual Aids, Timeline and Teacher Guidelines are available for download in over 42 languages, and the website is continuously updated with new materials.

- **Give thanks** for the thousands of children and adults who access the BES website and download the BES materials.
- **Praise** God for Steve's dedication and effort in designing, maintaining, and consistently updating the BES website. His hard work has greatly contributed to the functionality and appeal of the site.
- **Pray** for children, young people, teachers, homeschoolers, parents and church leaders to discover the site and use the resources to share the Gospel with thousands of children.















































Ministry Partners

BES works in partnership with organisations who share their core values, and who are involved in the translation, design, publishing and distribution of the BES resources worldwide. BES is expanding its partnership with Emmaus Worldwide to promote its adult educational materials, thereby facilitating simultaneous study opportunities. This initiative aims to encourage family Bible study, allowing children to engage with the Bibletime materials while adults utilise the resources provided by Emmaus Worldwide.

• Praise God for these ministries and pray for the continued working relationship between BES and Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF), Coaching 4 Christ, Counties, Crown Jesus Ministries, Emmaus Worldwide, Echoes of Mercy (EOM, Kenya), Everyday Publications (EDP), Every Home Crusade (Revival Movement), Fields of Life, FONIC Trust (Nepal), Henderson Print, Ireland Outreach (IO), Kindfund (Kenya), Leaders Equipping And Resourcing Network (LEARN) Global (Zimbabwe), Mission Patagonia (Argentina), MIK Christian Publishing House (Pakistan), Myra Wells, Noor Ministries (Pakistan), Postal Bible School (PBS) Centres, Serving in Mission (SIM), SunScool, Teens for Christ (TFC), United Beach Mission (UBM), World Vision Tanzania (WVT) and ZAM (Central Africa Mission).

Week

SunScool App

The SunScool App is a Bibletime-based gaming App for children to learn about the Bible across various media platforms. It is one of the top 10 Christian Apps for children and the Bibletime syllabus is available on it in 18 different languages.



- Praise God for Nikolay Abkairov, and his team of 10 full-time and 6 part-time editors, translators and designers, including his wife Katy. The team have worked well to accomplish so much in the past 10 years.
 Pray that God would protect, strengthen and bless the team who use their gifts to develop, review and change this App.
- **Praise** God SunScool is constantly developing the App with games, quizzes, childrens' songs and videos to make it more attractive and engaging. They have introduced Masaru-style drawings to 150 Bibletime lessons, and animated 50 lessons, which are all aimed at achieving high-level engagement with the students. They have expanded the collection of interactive games to 40 different types to help children memorize Bible verses and understand the Bible stories better. **Pray** for finance and skilled personnel to continue with these developments. **Pray** especially for people with drawing and design skills, animators, and those who can help with translation and recordings.
- SunScool has developed a 'Teacher Portal' where the App can be used in teacher mode in a classroom
 environment. The teacher can see the student's progress in real-time, and his/her work can be submitted
 for feedback and marking by the teacher. Pray for continued partnerships and development in this work
 stream
- **Praise** God for the thousands of children engaging with the App every month. Over 3 million lessons have been completed by children in the last 6 years and there are 600 lessons available to download and play on the App. 49 countries have over 1,000 children engaging with the App regularly. In Ukraine, over 70,000 students have completed at least one lesson. **Pray** for them to grow in their knowledge and love for God.
- The Bibletime syllabus is available in 18 languages and is fully translated into English, Russian and Ukrainian. It is almost finished in Spanish. Most of the users using the App are in the Ukrainian, Croatian, Spanish, Romanian, Russian and Portuguese languages. **Pray** for continued translation and increased usage in more languages.
- **Pray** for more volunteers, translators, and publicity to take place in other languages, especially Arabic, Chinese, Indonesian and Vietnamese.



Revival Movement Association

This Christian ministry has built up a reputation that can be trusted, by printing Gospel literature and providing it to its partners for worldwide distribution free of charge to the Majority World. Since 1984 Revival Movement has printed 2.06 billion items of Gospel literature. Revival Movement is a blessing to BES and many other Christian organisations and missions.

- Give thanks for Revival Movement who have printed over 12 million booklets for BES since 2015.
- **Praise** God for our yearly requests to Revival Movement for between 1-2 million booklets (over 87 tonnes of literature) in 12 languages for 32 countries.
- **Praise** God that He has graciously given Revival Movement ministry partners who have faithfully given to sustain this faith-based ministry. **Pray** for continued financial stability and provision of funds as costs for paper, utilities (electricity and water) and ink continually increase.
- **Pray** for the blessing and protection of Samuel Adams and his dedicated workforce as they continue this vital work.
- **Pray** that the machinery and printing presses will continue to operate and function smoothly without interruption, avoiding any serious breakdowns or the need for costly replacement parts.

The Americas

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Argentina

Argentina is the eighth largest country in the world and the second largest Spanish-speaking nation after Mexico. Although Catholics make up 63% of the 45 million people living there, Argentina is home to both the largest Muslim and Jewish communities in Latin America. Evangelical Christians make up about 15% of the population and sometimes face discrimination and limited religious freedom.

- **Praise** God for the financial gifts which enabled a small quantity of the A Series Bibletime in Spanish to be printed in-country. **Pray** for continued provision to allow more resources to be printed and a self-sustaining model to be implemented.
- **Pray** that Revival Movement will be able to import Spanish Bibletime material into the country for the first time very soon. There are many networks in place which could distribute a large quantity of Bibletime booklets to children throughout the country.
- Continue to **pray** for the ongoing Patagonia Missionary Outreach and promotional events where BES material is spoken about to church leaders, missionaries, teachers and other interested parties.



Brazil

Of Brazil's 215 million people, 30% are under the age of 18 and need to hear about Christ. Many organisations, including Refugio Brazil, ABBA – Children in Care, and The Channel to Brazil, support the 7-8 million children living in challenging conditions. They provide children with basic needs, hope, and opportunities for a better future through Christian teaching and community support.

- Pray for those involved in the growing ministry of HoraBíblica (Portuguese Bibletime) as they seek to
 ascertain God's will about a specific area in which to spread the Gospel using Bibletime. Many schools are
 still open to receiving the resources, so pray for discernment when deciding how much time to spend in
 one area and when to move on.
- Pray for the health and well-being of Alexandre and his wife Geovana, who manage and coordinate much of the work in Brazil; Jeanne in Campinas, who teaches 'Valores' classes in public schools using Bibletime; Daniela, who shares Bible stories on YouTube with the booklets; Sérgio in Santarém, Pará State, as he distributes Bibletime by boat to remote fishing and rural communities along the Amazon River; Jarlison living in Obidos, Para State, using Bibletime in CV classes every Saturday evening; the young team of volunteer translators working on the final C Series of Bibletime; and all the volunteers promoting, distributing, and teaching Bibletime in Portuguese to children and prisoners in Brazil. Pray for more volunteers to join and support Alexandre and Geovana in this ministry.
- Praise God for these enthusiastic and dedicated workers praying for Bibletime and God's Word to be
 more widely promoted, used and understood in this vast country. Despite the barriers and obstacles
 Alexandre and his team have faced, God has protected and blessed them greatly.
- **Praise** God that approximately 99,000 children in 103 schools use Portuguese Bibletime throughout Brazil to learn about God. **Praise** God that Bibletime booklets are readily available in Manaus, the capital city of Amazon State, and 15 other cities. In the neighbouring state of Pará and municipalities around Santarém, the authorities have given permission to distribute the Bibletime booklets in all public schools!
- **Praise** God for Revival Movement who have printed and shipped over 650,000 Bibletime booklets in Portuguese to Brazil since 2016.
- **Praise** God for the work of our partners at Interlink, and for Sueli, an Interlink director, who coordinates the distribution centre and helps to get the Bibletime material through customs.



Canada

In Canada, Christianity is the largest religion, with about 53% of the population identifying as Christian. Due to an increasingly diverse and secular culture, many Christian communities face challenges to find new ways to engage with society, spread the Word of God, and reach the next generation.

- **Praise** God for His daily care and faithfulness to Pete and Elaine who have been so dedicated and steadfast over the past 25 years in this ministry.
- Thank God for approximately 1,700 students across Canada and North America and the faithful team of 170 teachers who mark the BES resources. Many volunteers are nearing retirement, so **pray** for the Lord to inspire their willingness to keep serving and for younger individuals to volunteer to take their place when they retire.
- **Pray** for additional weekly support for Elaine in the office as she shoulders an increasingly heavy workload and sometimes feels a little overwhelmed.
- **Pray** for new opportunities to introduce and use German Bibletime in the nearby Hutterite Colonies since Pete and Elaine relocated to the southeast of Manitoba.
- Praise God for Sue (Emmaus PBS) as she coordinates a group of 60 students using Bibletime and NewLife
 material to enhance literacy skills and foster growth in Biblical knowledge. Pray for the students to maintain their
 enthusiasm for learning and growth as they seek to understand the Word of God. Pray for more teachers to join
 and support Sue in this ministry.
- **Praise** God for the students at the Emmaus Centre in Quebec who are using the French Bibletime resources to learn about God. **Pray** they will share the Good News about Jesus with their friends and families.

Jamaica

With approximately 70% of the population identifying as Christian, Christianity remains a significant part of life for children in Jamaica in 2024. Many attend churches, camps and youth groups. However, Christian children in Jamaica face many challenges including exposure to armed violence, mental health issues, poverty and family instability. Despite these challenges, many Christian communities and organisations in Jamaica work tirelessly to provide support and create a nurturing environment for children.

- **Pray** for Kerron who coordinates the Bibletime booklets in Jamaica and for a renewed interest to be shown in the Bibletime material from his local assembly and school.
- **Pray** for good evangelistic teaching and the promotion of Bibletime in schools, Sunday Schools and clubs in the surrounding villages by missionaries.





United States of America (USA)

Religion in the USA is as diverse as its population. Most Americans call themselves Christians, with about 51% of teenagers identifying as Christians. However, only 8% of these teens display the beliefs and habits of a committed Christian, such as regular Bible reading and sharing their faith. Many young Christians face challenges, like peer pressure and the influence of secular culture, which impact their beliefs and lifestyles. Sadly, most schools are closed to the mention of God.

- Praise God for the team at PBS Houston who send material to students across the USA. Caroline has
 taken responsibility for the operational side of the ministry looking after the student database, prizes,
 and posting lessons. Philip and his wife, Mary, with the support of their local Chapel, continue to print the
 resources. Pray for energy, passion and wisdom for the team as they continue in this ministry and balance
 their PBS work with full-time jobs.
- **Praise** God that Bibletime has brought real spiritual blessings to the lives of the students, their families and all those involved in this ministry and for the many students who have graduated from PBS Houston over recent years.
- Pray for students who are finding it difficult to fit in Bibletime with their school and college studies. Pray
 that they will continue spending time with the Lord each day and the Bibletime activity sheets will renew
 their interest and desire to learn about Him.
- **Pray** for more PBS Centres in the USA to emerge to serve the population. **Pray** for the Lord's guidance in how to take the work forward with regards to publicising the work that they do, attracting more students and retaining those students who begin Bibletime. **Pray** children will come to Salvation and share this news with their friends, family and the PBS Houston team.



West Indies - St. Lucia & Antigua

The West Indies constitutes a region within the Caribbean Basin and the North Atlantic Ocean, comprising numerous islands, including St Lucia, Antigua, and Dominica. The region is characterised by a diverse linguistic landscape, where English, French, and Spanish are spoken. Most of St. Lucia's population live in the capital city of Castries. The islands have a vibrant Christian community that plays a crucial role in the cultural and social life of their populations.

- **Praise** God for the dedication and hard work of Pete and Elaine from Canada for this outreach. For several years, they have travelled from Canada to St. Lucia to oversee the arrival and distribution of Bibletime booklets, visit the school principals, take school assemblies and maintain contact with them. **Pray** for protection and safety while travelling regularly.
- **Praise** God that over 30,000 Bibletime booklets have been shipped by Revival Movement to the West Indies. **Pray** for the safe arrival of each consignment every year.
- **Praise** God that 37 schools across St. Lucia and 1 in Antigua are using the Bibletime booklets. **Pray** that the Lord would seek to increase the usage of Bibletime, and that permission would be granted from the local church authorities to allow more schools in the Castries area on St. Lucia to use the Bibletime resources.

West Indies - Dominica

74,500 people live on this hurricane-prone, beautiful Caribbean Island, where despite 61% of the population being Catholic, the rise of evangelical churches now represents 18% of the population. Religious freedom is enshrined in the Constitution, allowing people to practise their faith freely.

• **Pray** for the promotion of the Bibletime resources on the Island and for renewed interest in missionaries and locals to use the material with children and teachers.



Venezuela

In Venezuela, 98% of children aged 15 or younger live in poverty due to severe economic challenges. Christian children in the country participate in large evangelistic events like Festikids during the Festival de la Familia in Mérida. Here, they participate in fun activities and watch a play called "Jesus to the Rescue". Despite the country's challenges, these events provide a sense of community and spiritual support for many children.

- Praise God that 150,000 Spanish Bibletime booklets arrived safely in Venezuela. Pray for their promotion, uptake and distribution, which have been slow and challenging due to the turbulent political crisis, severe economic pressures, and geographical distances. This has prevented the team from being able to implement training or distribute many Bibletime booklets outside of their local church circle.
- **Pray** for the recent success of using the Bibletime programme in local Sunday Schools, and working in a town school in Caracas every week. **Praise** God that the teachers and children look forward to singing new Bible songs and completing their booklets.
- **Pray** for Swanny, her husband Douglas, and the team, as they plan to train volunteers from several churches in Caracas who will visit schools, promote, teach, and distribute Bibletime. **Pray** that the Lord will bless both these families and those who have been trained.
- **Pray** strong connections will be made and trust will be built with organisations the team have met. Many have extensive networks with over 2,000 public schools, which would enable the distribution of Bibletime to thousands of children and young people.

European Continent

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Albania

As of the 2023 Census, Christians make up 16% of Albania's population. Since the fall of Communism, there has been a significant revival of evangelical Christianity, with around 200 churches planted across the country. Children in Albania celebrate "Shën Kolli" or Saint Nicholas Day, the patron saint of children, on December 6th. On this day, children receive gifts and sweets, and families attend church services.

- **Praise** God for Lorenc and the team in Pogradec who have translated the A and B Series in Albanian, and for Julian and the team in Vlore who have been working on the Teacher Guidelines. **Pray** for continued enthusiasm and strength as they progress through the translation of the C Series.
- **Pray** that once the translation is complete, there will be greater opportunities to raise awareness and promote the Albanian Bibletime lessons and Teacher Guidelines to churches and schools nationwide.

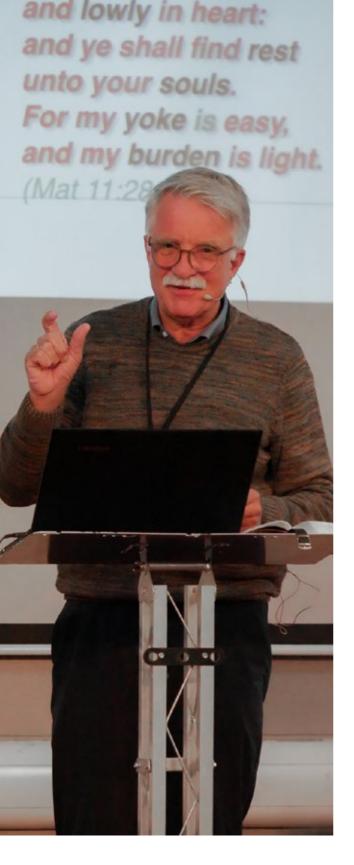




Armenia

According to the 2022 census, 2.76 million Christians live in Armenia, primarily belonging to the Armenian Apostolic Church. The festival of Vardavar is celebrated 14 weeks after Easter and is a favourite among children for its fun and joyous activities, as children and adults alike splash water on each other, symbolising purification and the renewal of life.

- **Praise** God for those volunteers involved in promoting the BES resources in Armenia. **Praise** God for Armen Grigoryan and his wife Hasmik, Andreas Reh (ZAM), and Matthew and Ruth Hillyer (CMIAID) who promote and use the Armenian Bibletime lessons with children.
- Pray for the children and Sunday School leaders in the villages of Byurehevan, Dvin, Nshavan, Yeghvard and Zoravan, the cities of Ejmiatsin and Yerevan and the town of Abovyan. The Bibletime booklets have been introduced to these locations, some through summer camps, others through churches. Pray that the children and leaders will happily accept the curriculum, and enjoy using it and that the teachers will eagerly teach the Word of God to the children, deepening their knowledge with this resource.
- **Pray** that the distribution programme of the BES material will raise awareness of the resource, and that usage of Bibletime in churches will increase across the whole community.
- **Praise** God for the progress made in translating the Bibletime series into Armenian. The syllabus is nearly complete. Pray for the translation of the Teacher Guidelines.
- **Pray** that God would raise more willing, gifted helpers and that there would be a real interest in using the Armenian Bibletime lessons in Sunday Schools across the country.



Austria

Austria lies in the heart of Europe, with a population of 9.12 million. German is the main language spoken by 89% of Austrians. During the Advent season, families come together and light candles on the Advent wreath every Sunday leading up to Christmas. Children eagerly await the arrival of the 'Christkind' (Christ Child) who is believed to bring gifts on Christmas Eve.

- Praise God for Andreas and his
 wife, Monika. Andreas is an Emmaus
 coordinator involved in the BES ministry,
 working in many of the Commonwealth of
 Independent States (CIS). Pray for him as
 he coordinates and oversees the Bibletime
 translation and usage in Armenia, Austria,
 Belarus, Moldova, Mongolia, Russia,
 Tajikistan and Ukraine.
- Pray for numerous groups, schools and churches to embrace this educational resource, enabling teachers to grow in knowledge and for the discipleship of children and youth.



Belarus

82% of Belarus's 9 million people identify as Eastern (Russian) Orthodox. The government places strict regulations on religious activities despite granting freedom of religion in the constitution. During Easter, children decorate pysanky (intricately decorated Easter eggs), blending religious and cultural practices to preserve Belarusian traditions and build a sense of community and faith among the younger generation.

- **Praise** God, Belarus Postal Bible School has have been able to officially register as a religious organisation. Continue to **pray** for the ongoing protection, determination, and resilience of Tim and his young team of 30 volunteers who are bravely promoting the Bibletime resources, especially during this season of political uncertainty and strict government control.
- Pray they can practise their faith and meet to undertake the administrative duties involved in running a
 PBS and organising one main summer camp and multiple one-day regional camps for the children and
 youth. In 2024, they organised a summer camp for 300 students, and 32 one-day camps in different
 places throughout Belarus.
- **Praise** God for the amazing interest in the BES materials in Belarus, with the team sending Russian Bibletime to over 4,000 students every month. They have 3,000 students who are children and young people, 100 are adults and 900 are prisoners. They have a new office in Brest and an office in Lahve, and recently celebrated 9 years of PBS in Belarus. **Pray** for financial provision and more young volunteers and workers as they want to open more offices across the country.
- **Pray** that the stories from Bibletime, which have historically provided strength to previous generations, will continue to excite, influence, and strengthen children and their families today as they learn about God.

Croatia

Catholicism is the predominant religion in Croatia, with 90% of the 4.2 million population identifying as Catholic. Only 0.5% of Christians claim to be evangelical, making it a significant challenge to spread God's Word. In Croatia's traditional culture, on the eve of St. Nicholas Day (December 6th), children clean their shoes and leave them out, hoping that St. Nicholas will fill them with small gifts and sweets if they have been good.

- **Pray** for Damir and Ivana as they coordinate the BES work in Croatia. **Pray** for their continued strength and encouragement, and for more co-workers to assist with the revision, proofreading, and administration.
- **Pray** for Ivana as she revises and translates the entire Bibletime Series and Teacher Guidelines into the new design.
- **Praise** God for the committed individuals striving to extend the outreach of Bibletime to diverse faith communities nationwide, encompassing churches, chapels, and schools. Their devoted efforts to promote Bibletime hold significant value in fostering cultural and educational connections.





Czech Republic

As of 2023, only 11% of the population identified with Christianity and 72% identified as atheist, agnostic or having no religious affiliation. Easter and Christmas traditions help Christian children connect with their faith and heritage, making the holidays a special time for family and community, but increasing secularism has left many young people searching for life-satisfying answers.

- Praise God for Karel and the team using digital platforms like Facebook, Instagram, SunScool and
 a modified Bibletime website 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 enthusiasm among youth to learn about God, and for the development of stronger partnerships with churches, youth organisations, Gideons and Emmaus to reach more students with BES resources.



French Speaking World

Due to the increasing usage of French in Africa, the global French-speaking population is expected to reach 715 million people by 2050. French remains the second most widely learned foreign language in the world, following English.

- In Association with ZAM in Germany, who work in many countries using Emmaus courses for adults,
 Revival Movement have printed and shipped nearly 3 million Bibletime booklets to African French-speaking
 countries. Praise God for this partnership and the willing workers who are reaching all generations with the
 Gospel.
- Praise God for Dorothy and Sophie who diligently reviewed and updated the translations of the French
 booklets and Teacher Guidelines and for the experience gained through working on this translation project.
 Pray it serves as an inspiration to those contemplating the translation of the Bibletime syllabus into their
 respective local languages.
- **Pray** for more openings to use French Bibletime throughout the world, as social media platforms, mobile technology, the BES website and the French LMS training programme are used to promote the material to church leaders, teachers, and children and their families.

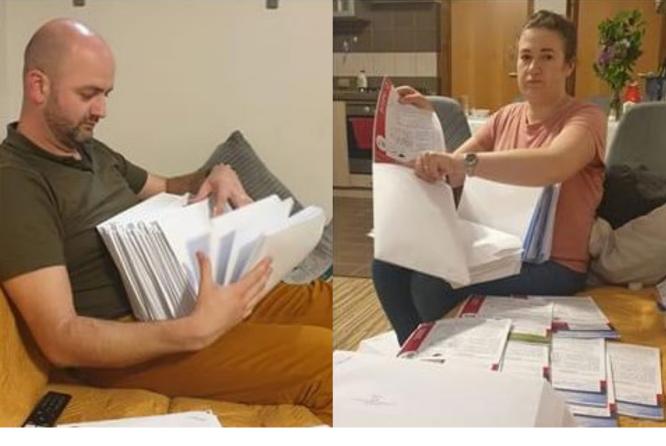
Week 13

Germany

About 2.6 million Christian children are living in Germany. Many Christian children participate in Sunday School, where they learn about the Bible, Jesus, and Christian values through stories, songs, and activities. This helps them understand their faith in a fun and engaging way.

- **Praise** God for the dedication of Andrea, Monika, Lisa, and Samuel as they translated and revised the German Bibletime booklets and Teacher Guidelines.
- **Praise** God for the spiritual well-being of the children benefitting from the German Bibletime resources within their religious and domestic environments.





Hungarian Speaking World

Hungary's thousand years of history, influences from other countries, unique characteristics of the Hungarian language and regional traditions all contribute to its complexity. Since the fall of Communism, over 234 religious associations and 12 denominations have been officially registered in the country. Children are encouraged to engage in traditional folk dances and music, which are central to Hungarian festivals and celebrations.

- In Oradea, Hungarian Bibletime lessons are used to reach many children, particularly those with a nomadic lifestyle. **Pray** for Csaba, Eniko and their 3 children as they oversee this ministry and hold seasonal camps and prize-giving events to reach unchurched children. **Pray** that the Lord may bless their work and their health, and give them wisdom, enthusiasm and strength to serve.
- **Praise** God for the children, workers, volunteers, prayer supporters and sponsors involved in this children's ministry, reaching Hungarian-speaking children worldwide. Tamás coordinates the use of online Hungarian material and is designing the new style Bibletime material with BES characters. **Pray** for its development and growth among the younger generations.
- **Pray** for the continued provision of the resources. **Praise** God for Revival Movement as they have printed and shipped over 22,000 Hungarian Bibletime lessons to Romania for the children to use in their language.
- **Pray** that the distribution programme of the BES material will raise awareness of the resource, and usage of Bibletime in churches across the community and in other groups will be eagerly accepted so that children will be taught the Word of God.



Ireland

The Republic of Ireland has a population of over 5.9 million. As of the 2022 census, the Christian population is estimated at 76% but evangelicals represent about 0.74%. The challenge to reach children with the Gospel is great. Children attending Sunday School learn about Bible stories, and Christian values, and engage in activities like singing, crafts, and games. It's a great way for children to build a strong foundation in their faith while also making friends and having fun.

- Praise God for Gareth, Margaret and the team who help run PBS Ireland. Praise God for the safe arrival
 of baby Lillian, Nischal and Debby's new daughter. Praise God for all the workers and volunteers involved
 in this busy ministry with general administrative office duties, IT development, school work and planning for
 camps.
- **Pray** for organising over 40 prizegiving events each year, safety in travel, and the provision of prizes.
- **Give thanks** for the young believers who were always challenged and encouraged at the yearly camps, and for the leaders who take on the responsibility, enthuse the children and teach God's Word faithfully leading children to Salvation.
- Praise God that Bibletime is being used by hundreds of primary-aged children each month and some students from secondary schools. Pray that God will continue to search their hearts and teach them His ways through the Bible stories.
- Pray for the partnership with PBS Ireland and SunScool as they continue to develop and pilot the
 'Teacher Portal' in schools using the App in teacher mode in a classroom environment. Pray that it is well
 received and constructive feedback is given to enable further development in this project.

Italy

Mass immigration has brought many religious practices, denominations and beliefs to Italy, and this poses challenges for a country whose headquarters of the Catholic Church is in the Vatican City, Rome. 74% of 60 million Italians claim to be Catholic, and typically around the age of 7 or 8 children participate in a tradition called 'First Holy Communion'. This is where they receive the Eucharist for the first time and it is often celebrated with a special ceremony at church followed by a family gathering. The event is considered a major milestone in a child's religious life and is celebrated similarly in many other countries around the world.

- Praise God for Rod and Debbie Jones and the team who translated the Bibletime material into Italian.
- **Praise** the Lord that the Bibletime Series and Teacher Guidelines are available on the BES website in Italian.
- There is no BES Centre or partner in Italy at the moment. Pray for opportunities to attract willing volunteers
 and partners to promote Bibletime to young people through enthusiastic and dedicated workers living in
 Italy.



Week 15



Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan is the world's largest landlocked country, and its name translates to 'Land of Wanderers' reflecting its nomadic heritage. The country is home to over 120 ethnic groups and nationalities, including 17% of the population who identify as Christian (2021 census). Most Kazakh Christians celebrate Christmas on January 7th, following the Julian calendar used by the Russian Orthodox Church. The Christmas season begins with a 40-day Advent period, during which many Orthodox Christians abstain from meat and other rich foods. This fasting period ends on January 6th, when the first star appears in the night sky, symbolising the birth of Jesus.

- Kazakhstan is a closed country with a lack of resources for Sunday School teachers. Pray for the small
 team translating and designing the Bibletime lessons and Teacher Guidelines in Kazakh. Part of A Series is
 complete and available to download from the BES website.
- After completing the translation project, pray for the protection of the team as they promote the BES
 material. They plan to use technology and also harness the power of word-of-mouth promotion by actively
 encouraging families, Sunday School teachers, and church leaders to use the resources and share their
 positive experiences.
- Pray for the boldness and safety of the team. Religious freedom has been under constant threat since
 legislation was introduced in 2011 that gave the government significant control over religion, leading to
 increased surveillance, raids on meetings, arrests and imprisonment for Christians, particularly those
 outside of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Moldova

Moldova's official language is Moldovan Romanian, although Russian is also used in some areas. 37% of children in Moldova face significant challenges from poverty, limited healthcare, disparities in educational access between rural and urban areas, and neglect / abandonment (many Moldovan parents migrate to work, leaving their children behind). To combat this, many organisations run events and activities to provide spiritual education but also offer a sense of community and support for children living in difficult conditions.



- **Pray** that as the children study the Bible using Bibletime across Moldova and grow closer to God, the Lord works in their hearts and they will want to read the Scriptures.
- **Pray** that the Lord will continue to bless the organisations (CMIAID and Emmaus) and individuals (Gabriel) who have dedicated themselves to God's service and to overseeing this children's ministry in Moldova.
- Praise God for Matthew, his wife Ruth, and the PBS office staff in CMIAID who send out Romanian Bibletime to thousands of children in Moldova. Praise God for the children posting their completed Bibletime lessons into the red mailboxes situated in school corridors. Pray for opportunities to expand the BES ministry. Pray for a response from the Education department regarding whether or not Bibletime can become part of the school curriculum. Pray for wisdom in how best to respond to the interest shown in the Bibletime material from schools, teachers, parents and school governors/principals.
- **Pray** for Gabriel as he continues distributing Romanian Bibletime materials in 6 Christian centres, reaching 150 students. These centres provide a safe and supportive environment for underprivileged children, offering them hot meals and a space to complete their Bibletime lessons and homework. **Pray** for the partnership between Gabriel and the Baptist church, who have indicated they may use the Romanian material with 1,000 children in their Bible clubs. Pray that this opportunity may develop and grow.
- Through ZAM, Emmaus currently have over 1,500 Russian and Romanian students. Pray for Tanya who coordinates this work. Students are completing Bibletime booklets in prisons, orphanages, and schools.
 Pray that the Holy Spirit will use these resources to invigorate and challenge the students to grow in their relationship with God as they encounter His Word in a new way through the BES programme. Praise God for the many varieties of evangelistic outreach events organised to attract children to listen and learn about God using Bibletime.

Week 16



Montenegro

Montenegrin Christians have some unique and rich traditions for both Christmas and Easter. On Christmas Eve, known as Badnji dan, a man from each household goes into the woods to cut down an oak tree, which is then brought home and cut into pieces called badnjaks. These are burned in the fireplace to symbolize warmth and prosperity for the coming year. On the eve of Orthodox Easter, a bonfire is lit outside the church, symbolizing Jesus Christ's resurrection and the triumph of light over darkness. This ceremony is a significant and awe-inspiring part of the Easter celebration.

- **Praise** God for the commitment and eagerness of Dushan who is translating the syllabus and bringing Bibletime lessons to children in Montenegro. The A Series is progressing and is expected to be available to children by the middle of 2025.
- **Pray** for volunteers, promotional opportunities, and a church revival to use Bibletime material in Sunday Schools and Bible clubs to attract more children to learn about God.

Poland

Most Christian children in Poland receive religious education as part of their school curriculum, and First Holy Communion, typically celebrated around the age of 9, is a major family celebration with special outfits, gifts and a festive meal. Christmas is an important holiday. Children participate in various traditions such as decorating the Christmas tree, attending Pasterka (midnight mass), and enjoying a festive meal on Christmas Eve, which includes 12 dishes representing the 12 Apostles.

- Praise God for Marek and Ella for their foundational work in translating Bibletime into Polish several years ago. Praise God for the unwavering passion, commitment, and eagerness of a small group of translators led by Agata, who aspire to bring the updated Bibletime lessons to children in Polish. The A Series is making steady progress and is already accessible to children on the BES website. Pray for the commencement of the B Series in the new design with the BES characters.
- **Pray** for the recruitment of active workers, for promotional opportunities using social media and an awakening of the church so that the Bibletime material already translated will be used in Sunday Schools and weekly Bible clubs to excite and attract more children to learn about God.





Romania

Romania has an evangelical population of 6.3%. Many children participate in traditional Christmas customs that have been passed down through generations. For example, during the Christmas season, children often go carolling from house to house, singing traditional Romanian carols called "Colinde." This practice not only keeps the cultural heritage alive but also brings communities together in celebration of the holiday.

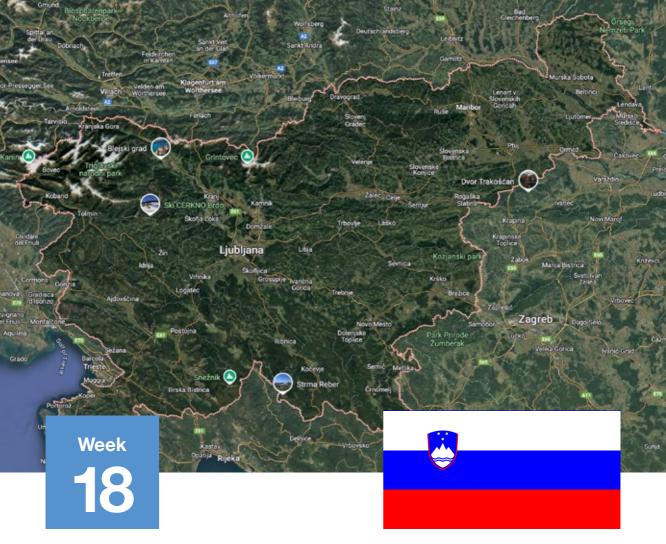
- **Praise** God for the PBS work in Romania. It has been active for over 20 years and since 2003, Mihaela estimates that 2 million Bibletime booklets have been distributed to Romanian-speaking children attending Sunday Schools and youth groups in other European countries and within Romania itself.
- **Pray** for wisdom, guidance, strength, and energy as Mihaela diligently leads the work and faces challenges, including finance, recruitment of markers, and time. **Pray** for her health and the time needed to translate and design the new look Bibletime resources using the BES characters. Level 0 is also now included in the syllabus. The A Series has been completed and printed. Mihaela is working on the B and C Series.
- **Pray** for the 3,400 active students, and 135 prisoners, who receive the Bibletime material via post each month. **Pray** that those who complete the Bibletime lessons will reflect this learning in their lives and be seen as shining lights within their communities.
- Praise the Lord for the establishment of the Onesimus Christian Centre in Moara de Padure, Cluj, led by
 the PBS Romanian Team. Pray for good judgment in organising activities within the Onesimus Christian
 Centre, continued interest and bookings from groups, financial provision, and wisdom for the Board
 overseeing the work.
- **Give thanks** for the work completed since the initial construction of the Centre, including the installation of underfloor heating, the kitchen renovation, and improvements to the outdoor recreational area. **Pray** for the continuous maintenance and repairs required to keep the Centre in good condition for public use. There is a perpetual need for upkeep and health and safety obligations which must be adhered to.



Russia

Russia is a massive country with eleven time zones and a population of 144 million. Over 90% of the people have no meaningful link with a church. Russian Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas on January 7th. On Christmas Eve, families gather for a special meal called Sochelnik. This meal often includes sochivo, a dish made from grains, seeds, honey, and nuts, symbolising the end of their 40-day fast from meat and dairy products. In some regions, people place hay on the table to represent the manger where Jesus was born and cover it with a white tablecloth symbolising the swaddling clothes of Jesus.

- Praise God The Postal Bible School (PBS) has experienced a growth in student numbers over the past
 19 years, particularly among children from Orthodox families. The small team send thousands of Russian
 Bibletime courses to more than 22 regions every month from the Emmaus office in St. Petersburg. Pray
 for this tight-knit team and their families, and for the children who receive the materials, that they will come
 to faith through using them.
- **Pray** for new assistants and successors who are young, creative and have a passion for the Lord and a vision to revise the Russian paper-based Bibletime material.
- Praise God the Bibletime syllabus has been fully translated into Russian on the SunScool App,
 "VoShkola!", and thousands of unchurched young people have access to it from the technology and gaming communities.
- The 'Teacher Mode' function in the SunScool App is popular in Russia. In the application, the teacher can mark the lesson, monitor the development of the children's progress through each lesson and give valuable feedback and help where needed. **Pray** that the functionality of the App will continue to be developed in the future and every teacher will want to use it!
- **Praise** God for all those who support the ministry financially and/or prayerfully.



Slovenia

Slovenia has a population of just over 2 million, of which approximately 15% are under the age of 15 and many are from Roman Catholic churches.

- **Praise** God for the small team of translators who have commenced the translation of Bibletime into the Slovenian language (Levels 0-3).
- **Praise** God for collaboration from the three largest denominations to move the translation of the syllabus forward. The choice of levels to be translated was made after discussing the most prevalent needs with the Pentecostal community, Brethren churches and Lutheran churches.
- **Pray** the project does not rule out the translation of the Level 4 Bibletime in the future for older teenagers, as suitable Biblical resources are also needed for this demographic who lack adequate teaching material.
- **Pray** that once the material is translated, it will be readily available on a local children's Christian website in Slovenia and promoted through the BES website.



Switzerland

Christianity is the predominant religion of Switzerland and many people participate in a variety of traditions which are tied to the Christian calendar and local customs. The Swiss flag, which is a red square with a white cross in the centre, is based on a Christian cross.

- **Praise** God for our Emmaus partners, Markus and his team, who use the German Bibletime material on their website to promote the study of God's Word among German-speaking families.
- **Pray** that households will strengthen their faith and relationship with God through children engaging with the Bibletime resources, and adults participating in the Emmaus Correspondence Bible Courses.
- **Pray** that the Lord will give direction in expanding the outreach of these multi-generational resources across Switzerland and for financial provision to support any promotional projects.
- Pray for the needs that the Emmaus team have in printing, distribution and marking Bibletime.



Spanish Speaking World

The Spanish-speaking world is enormous with approximately 580 million speakers. It is the 4th most spoken language in the world, spoken by over 7% of the world's population. In many Spanish-speaking countries, El Día de los Reyes (Three Kings' Day) is celebrated on January 6th. This holiday marks the arrival of the three wise men who brought gifts to baby Jesus. Children leave their shoes out the night before, filled with hay or grass for the camels, and wake up to find them filled with gifts.

- Praise God for the spread of Bibletime through the Spanish-speaking world. "Mibiblia" (Spanish Bibletime)
 is being downloaded from the BES website in many Latin American countries, particularly in Columbia and
 Mexico.
- **Praise** God for Gil and Carolyn, Emmaus directors in Spain, as they oversee the translation, design and printing stages of the material including the promotion of the resources.
- **Praise** God for the design of "Mibiblia" in booklet format. The A and B Series are complete. **Pray** for the designing and printing of C Series.
- **Pray** for the shipment of "Mibiblia" overseas to a growing ministry in Baja California in Northwestern Mexico. Over 700 children are now using the resources. **Pray** that the Holy Spirit will help these children apply the Biblical truths taught in the Bibletime booklets to their lives.

Day 20

Turkey

Christian children in Turkey often face significant social isolation. For example, it is not uncommon for a Christian child to be the only one in their entire school. A director of a ministry serving Christian families shared that his son was the only Christian among 2,000 students at his school. To support these children, organisations like Kucak Yayıncılık organise summer camps and publish books and magazines specifically for Christian children. These camps provide a rare opportunity for them to meet others who share their faith and background.



- **Praise** God that Ibrahim, Özlem and the small team have finished translating the entire Bibletime Series and Teacher Guidelines. The material is freely available for download from the BES website and is being used by children in the earthquake zone. **Pray** the material and Biblical teaching may be a source of hope for many children and their families.
- **Pray** that more churches throughout Turkey will want to use the BES material. The Kucak team would love to use the Bibletime lessons with the Assyrian children in the East. **Pray** the Lord will open the door and give them opportunities to promote it.
- **Praise** God for the children who come to the summer camps and have put their faith in Jesus. Give thanks for the young people who attended the camps, and now serve as volunteers. **Praise** God for this new generation of Christians rising in Turkey.
- **Praise** God for the SunScool App which is very popular amongst Turkish children, and **pray** that more children are encouraged to use it and learn about God.
- **Pray** that in this predominantly Muslim nation, many strongholds will be broken in the lives of those God is calling. **Pray** God will protect the Kucak ministry team physically and mentally in this complex and difficult country as they reach out to unbelieving families and organisations.
- **Pray** for Mitko, as he continues to reach out with Turkish Bibletime in Bulgaria.



UK

The United Kingdom has a population of approximately 69 million. The 2021 Census found that only 46% of all adults in the UK identified as Christian, meaning that many children will grow up in a multicultural and non-Christian environment. Children in the UK celebrate major Christian holidays like Christmas and Easter with special church services, family gatherings, and community events. These celebrations often include carol singing, Christingle making, nativity plays, Easter egg hunts, and other festive activities like Harvest Festivals and Easter bonnet parades.

- Praise God for His continued provision and blessing over this ministry. Praise Him for the redesign of the BES resources Bibletime, Bibletime Going Deeper and the Teacher Lesson Plans which are being widely used. Praise God that BES have ordered over 1.8 million Bibletime lessons since 2017 for the UK and Ireland Postal Bible School Centres, and demand for printed material is steady. Praise God that the LMS (Learning Management System), our digital training platform has been used by over 1,400 individuals to complete the 14 training modules online. Praise God for the BES Conference held in 2024, in Northern Ireland with 71 delegates from 30 countries represented.
- BES requires a comprehensive corporate digital solution to align with technological advancements and
 the increasing prevalence of online work across various media platforms. Pray for wisdom, insight and the
 development of digital solutions that encompasses a wide range of specifications, capable of functioning
 across all digital platforms and in multiple formats, including Apps for mobile devices and online (HTML)
 interfaces for computers.

- **Pray** for wisdom and insight for the Trustees as they consider online solutions to take Bibletime forward into an evolving technological landscape.
- England (population 57 million) There are several PBS Centres located throughout the country. Praise God for PBS CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship), PBS Dorset, PBS Kingfisher, PBS Living Word, PBS UBM (United Beach Missions) and PBS Words of Life, as they all seek to reach children and families within a growing secular society. Many of the Postal Bible Schools are run by older people, and some have closed over recent months, passing their students to existing PBS Centres. Pray for new assistants and successors who are young, creative and passionate about the Lord to show an interest in leading this work. Pray for teenagers who are struggling to balance Bibletime with their school and college studies. Pray that they will continue to make time for the Lord each day and that the new Bibletime design will rekindle their interest and desire to learn about Him.
- Scotland (population 5.5 million) Praise God for the dedicated team of teachers and markers at PBS Scotland and PBS Orkney, who use Bibletime to teach children about the Bible in Sunday Schools, local clubs and with home students. Pray for the Lord's guidance in attracting more students and retaining those who begin Bibletime. Praise God for the students who have shown real commitment and understanding of the Bibletime studies.
- Wales (population 3.2 million) Pray that more churches will use and promote Bibletime in rural areas to
 teach and disciple children. Pray for Stephen and Gwyneth who have been involved in the PBS Centre in
 South Wales for over 20 years, that they may know the best course of action in light of declining numbers.
 Praise God that thousands of children download the Welsh lessons from the BES website each year.
- Northern Ireland (population 1.9 million) Praise God for the 180 controlled primary schools using
 Bibletime in their Religious Education (RE) lessons. PBS Belfast, PBS Northeast, PBS Fermanagh &
 Tyrone, and PBS Schools have seen consistent student numbers using the Bibletime resource which is
 encouraging in an advancing secular society. Praise God for His provision to meet the increasing financial
 needs of printing and delivery costs.





Ukraine

Ukrainians have strong traditions which reflect the rich tapestry of Ukrainian Christian culture and community spirit. Paska (Easter) is one of the most important holidays, which includes a blessing of Easter baskets filled with foods like Paska (Easter bread), eggs and meats. Zeleni Sviata (Pentecost), known as the Green Holidays, involves decorating homes with green branches and flowers to symbolise the Holy Spirit's descent upon the apostles.

- **Pray** that Yuri, Pavel, Tanya and the team will be effective in their outreach to exalt God's name and show His love as they serve in difficult economic, physical and political conditions in Ukraine.
- Praise God for the continued printing and distribution of the A4-sized booklets which contain 6 months' worth of material in Ukrainian. Many of these Ukrainian booklets are being printed in Poland, Romania and Moldova and given to children displaced by the invasion. Pray children and students will come to know God as their Lord and Saviour through using these resources.
- **Pray** for the current material to be updated and revised by the team as it has not been revised since it was initially translated over 20 years ago.
- **Pray** for unity and strength in the Spirit of God amongst believers and a blessing on all those workers and children connected with the Bibletime ministry, including those from neighbouring countries and from across the borders.
- **Praise** God for innovation used to encourage children to complete the Bibletime lessons. Upon completion of each booklet, a child will receive a sticker relating to an animal which they can stick onto a Noah's Ark blank sticker sheet. After they have completed a Series, they will receive a wooden ark.

African Continent

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Angola

In 2024, Angola's population was around 38 million, with about 80% practicing Christianity. However, child labour (mainly working on plantations, in construction and other hazardous industries) affects 25% of children, preventing them from attending school. Organisations, like World Vision and Christian Aid, operate programmes to try and combat this issue by providing education, healthcare, and vocational training to parents and their children.

Week **23**

- **Pray** for Brian (Angola Literature Fund), Isaiah and workers from ZAM as they distribute the Bibletime booklets in Portuguese to thousands of children across the 16 provinces of Angola.
- **Praise** God that Revival Movement has sent over 150,000 Portuguese Bibletime booklets to Angola over the last 9 years. These booklets have been used in Sunday Schools and clubs to help children learn about the Bible and Christian values. The children have also been encouraged by reciting memory verses, singing and crafts.
- **Pray** that teachers will embrace the lesson plans in the Teacher Guidelines to help with the planning and delivery of the key Biblical messages.
- **Pray** that children will be blessed with these booklets and find Salvation. The response from the younger people has been encouraging as they enjoy the puzzles and games and filling things in.





Benin

As of 2024, 52% of the 14 million people living in Benin identify as Christian. The legacy of Christian missionaries in Benin is complex, marked by both significant contributions to societal development and challenges related to cultural integration and colonial history. However, they have had a profound impact in establishing schools and providing education to children who otherwise might not have had access. Missionaries have also been instrumental in building hospitals and clinics offering medical care where it was limited and establishing food distribution programs to support the poor and marginalised.

- **Praise** God for the French Bibletime sent from the BES team in Burkina Faso to Bernard in Benin. The unaccompanied shipment passes through Ghana and Togo and then into Benin.
- **Praise** God for Bernard, the ZAM coordinator. The team uses the French Bibletime booklets with children in Evangelical and Protestant churches, schools and child care centres in 4 provinces (Alibori, Atakora, Donga and Zou). **Pray** for their vision to reach children in all 12 regions.
- Thank God for those trained in teaching the lessons to the children and pray that their faith will be strengthened as their Biblical knowledge increases. Pray for an additional 150 volunteers needed to teach classes throughout the academic year in schools.
- **Pray** for financial provision for the team for travel expenses, training needs and general expenses to support their mission.

Burkina Faso

Muslim-majority Burkina Faso has a history of religious tolerance, and it is not uncommon to see families made up of both Muslims and Christians, who make up about 23% of the population. This interfaith harmony allows children to grow up with respect for different beliefs and traditions, celebrating each other's religious festivals. At Christmas, children in Burkinabe villages often engage in creating nativity scenes using clay, straw, and water. They build these outside their homes, crafting figures of Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus to illustrate the Biblical story.

- Praise God for Christine (Myra Wells), Priscilla, and their team, who are coordinating the distribution
 of Bibletime booklets to children in Burkina Faso. Praise God for their passion and dedication to this
 children's ministry and for their organisational skills which have allowed the distribution networks with the
 churches and schools to develop and grow.
- Pray for peace and their continued protection as their country faces threats of terrorism and ongoing security risks.
- Bibletime has made a positive impact in 1,430 churches and 10 schools. More than 2,563 teachers are
 skilled in teaching the BES resources. Pray for plans as the team aims to reach even more children in the
 73 ecclesiastical regions of Burkina Faso by expanding into additional schools, and further developing the
 project management team.
- **Praise** God that over the last 5 years, they have received over 650,000 French Bibletime booklets which have had a positive impact on so many children's lives. **Pray** they will continue to seek God's Word and understanding through the BES material despite otherworldly influences and pressures on their time.
- Praise God for the growth and widespread usage of the Bibletime material across so many denominations
 and regions of Burkina Faso. For example, multiple training sessions for teachers have been conducted
 in the regions of Boho, Banfora, Gounghin, Toussiana and remote surrounding areas close to the border
 with Mali. The National Director of Evangelical Schools and Colleges has introduced Bibletime booklets into
 primary and middle schools under his control.





Chad

Over 20 million people live in Chad and despite Christianity being a minority religion, there is a notable degree of harmony in the country despite its diverse religious landscape. Christian holidays like Christmas and Easter often include communal feasts, traditional dances, and extended family gatherings with a strong emphasis on community. It's common for entire villages to come together to celebrate these occasions.

- **Praise** God for Bianzeube, a ZAM worker, and the BES volunteers distributing the French Bibletime booklets in Chad.
- **Praise** God that over 13,000 students use Bibletime in 15 schools and 79 churches across 9 denominations.
- **Praise** God for the teacher training which has taken place. Over 150 teachers, including 63 Sunday School teachers and 12 officials from Reception Centres for Orphaned Children can teach Bibletime using the Teacher Guidelines.
- **Pray** for the expansion of the ministry to reach into all 23 provinces of Chad, especially the northern area which is heavily populated by Muslims. Bianzeube has plans to reach 20,000 children, organise a Bibletime training retreat for 80 instructors and promote Bibletime in 10 new orphanages.
- Continue to pray for children who study God's Word each week with Bibletime and the thousands of non-Christian children attending schools where Bibletime is used to teach the Bible stories. Pray for God to touch their hearts and for their Salvation.



Cameroon

With over 250 languages and 250 distinct ethnic groups, this rich diversity contributes to Cameroon's nickname, "Africa in miniature". Christian festivals such as Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost, often feature colourful processions, traditional dances, and communal feasts, reflecting the vibrant heritage and wide array of cultures and languages of Cameroon.

- Praise God for Noel, a ZAM worker, who coordinates the BES ministry in Cameroon. Cameroon is a mini
 depot for the BES resources and supplies material to Chad, CAR (Central African Republic) and Gabon.
 Pray for more Bibletime material to be sent to Cameroon.
- Praise God the teachers are delighted to use the Teacher Guidelines because of their well-organised
 and logical layout. They have also reported that thousands of children love using BES Bibletime booklets
 because they are filled with engaging activities, games, and puzzles that are both enjoyable and
 challenging.
- Give thanks to God for the successful distribution of the entire French A Series Bibletime, and for the ZAM
 team which has organised training seminars for hundreds of teachers from the Baptist and Evangelical
 churches.
- Pray for the multifaceted nature of Cameroon's political and humanitarian landscape which is seeing
 tension/violence between militia groups, villagers, the lawful authorities and the Government. Pray for
 peace and safety for all the workers involved in using Bibletime as they travel, teach, encourage and
 distribute the material in challenging and often dangerous situations.



Central African Republic (CAR)

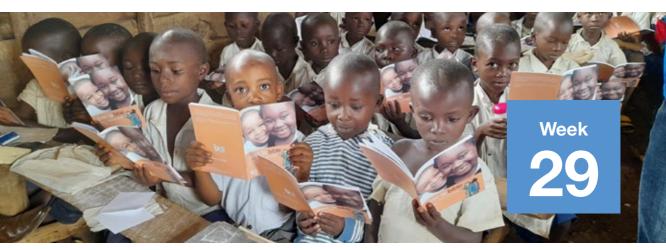
Christianity is the predominant religion in CAR, with about 82% of the population identifying as Christian. Christian festivals are celebrated with a blend of traditional and local customs, and the food eaten during these celebrations reflects local cuisine. At Christmas, Kanda Ti Nyma, is a beloved part of the festive food culture in CAR. This traditional dish made from game meat, such as antelope or buffalo, is seasoned with local spices and slowly stewed until tender and served with side dishes of fufu and plantains.

- Pray for strength and perseverance for Abed-Nego, a ZAM worker, as he promotes Bibletime in schools
 and churches throughout CAR. He estimates he has given 16,880 French Bibletime booklets to children
 and young people in and around the Bangui provinces since 2020, but states that demand and interest
 from the outer provinces is growing as people see the booklets in use.
- **Praise** God nearly 7,000 students are currently learning God's Word using French Bibletime spread over 4 regions- Bengui, Central, Central West and the West.
- Praise God that the Bibletime booklets are used in 43 churches and 9 Evangelical primary schools. Pray
 for more material to be shipped to the country as they are struggling to meet demand using the depot in
 Cameroon.
- **Pray** for more volunteers with a heart for God to teach the children and grade their booklets. Many will only work for payment and are unwilling to give up their time for free.
- **Pray** for church leaders and principals to follow the Bibletime curriculum and promote the use of the Teacher Guidelines to provide structure for the teachers. **Pray** for regular follow-up training sessions to motivate teachers and to bring clarification to students who are seeking answers.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has a population of 109 million people, making it the most populated Francophone country in the world. The DRC is home to over 200 ethnic groups, although 95% of its population identifies as Christian. Many Christian children attend lively and interactive Sunday School classes, which incorporate local language and cultural elements to teach Bible stories, songs and prayers. Christmas is a major celebration when children participate in nativity plays, community feasts and traditional dances. They also sing carols and receive new clothes as gifts.

- **Praise** God for Emmaus workers and BES volunteers, Bernard, Emmanuel, Jacques and Thomas, who coordinate and distribute the Bibletime booklets throughout DRC in Bakavu, Goma, Kinshasa and Lubumbashi.
- Pray for Everyday Publications (EDP) as they assist with the translation of Bibletime into Congo Swahili.
- **Praise** God that Revival Movement has printed over 1 million Bibletime booklets in English and French for primary and secondary schools and churches in DRC over the last 10 years.
- **Praise** God that where access to standard school textbooks is limited, urban and rural schools have found the BES literature is filling the gaps and has become a standard learning tool for the children. **Pray** for a spiritual blessing for all those who have contact with the English Bibletime resource.
- Pray for Bernard and his team in Goma, as they visit students in 12 churches and 18 schools in Goma who
 are using the material. The booklets are being used in school to teach part of the national RE curriculum.
 Pray that many young lives will be saved through the use of Bibletime and it will be a huge blessing to them.
- **Pray** for Emmanuel and his team in Lubumbashi, as they have over 32,000 students in churches and schools. **Pray** for the large scale outreach programmes planned to reach into neighbourhoods and remote rural areas with the Word of God using the BES resources.
- **Pray** for Jacques in Kinshasa as he and his team distribute thousands of Bibletime booklets to 80 Christian primary schools and 23 churches. The teachers think the Teacher Guidelines are such an amazing resource and have learnt so much about God themselves since using them to teach the children.
- **Pray** for Thomas and the team in Bakavu as he continues to serve the Lord and disseminate the Bibletime booklets to 79 churches and schools. The booklets have positively impacted so many children's lives, changing their behaviour and attitude to God and one another. We thank God for the many testimonies from children, teachers and parents about this.

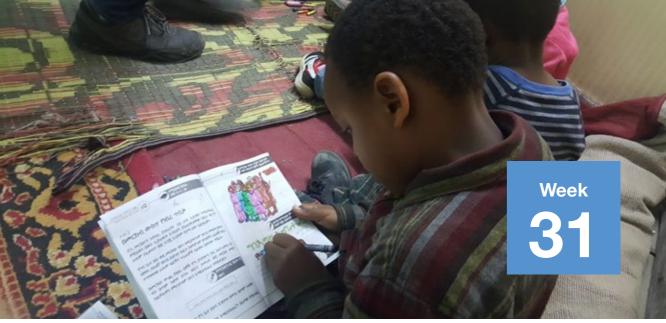




Egypt

Egypt is home to 116 million people, with 10% identifying as Christian. Christians can face societal discrimination, violence, persecution, and social pressures, and they are underrepresented in many senior roles within society. However, the Christian community remains resilient and continues to contribute to the country's cultural and social fabric. Christmas and Easter are significant holidays marked by periods of fasting, special church services and festive meals with family and friends.

- Praise God for Sary and the team as they continue to serve the Lord in editing the Bibletime Syllabus in
 Arabic and forging new partnerships with different church denominations across Egypt. Praise God for the
 latest alliance with the Methodist church, the third largest in Egypt and for requests for Bibletime booklets
 from Christian schools in Cairo. Interest in the material is high and the ministry is growing.
- **Praise** God that children from 21 churches have been blessed with the Arabic Bibletime booklets. **Pray** for communication and distribution of the material to 150 churches who have requested over 50,000 booklets.
- Thank God for the ability to print and ship Bibletime in Arabic. Praise God that over 11,000 children have
 these booklets in Egypt. Pray for the development of their Biblical knowledge, their relationship with God,
 and their Salvation.
- Pray for the multiple training sessions scheduled via Zoom and in person to include teachers and church leaders from Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan, Syria and Turkey. Pray for these 'Train the Trainer' sessions, that teachers will then cascade their knowledge, experience and training to other tutors in their local areas. The first phase will involve training 150 leaders from 3 regions, representing 75 churches, on how to teach a Bibletime lesson.
- **Pray** for the translation of the LMS (BES training platform) into Arabic. This initiative holds the potential to open new opportunities, enabling more Arabic-speaking teachers and pastors to access the training material remotely. This access will facilitate their learning on how to effectively teach Bibletime to children.
- **Pray** that God will give Sary and the team a new vision and empowerment in how to promote Arabic Bibletime and move it on to reach unbelieving families who forbid their children from studying the courses.



Ethiopia

As of 2024, the population of Ethiopia is approximately 132 million. Many Christian children in Ethiopia are bilingual, speaking both Oromo and Amharic. This is partly due to the historical and cultural significance of both languages in the country. Amharic is the official language of Ethiopia, while Oromo is widely spoken by the Oromo people, the largest ethnic group in Ethiopia. Significant Christian festivals celebrated by both communities include Gena (7th January), Meskel (27th September) and Timkat (Epiphany on 19th January). Festivals are often marked with vibrant community processions, church services, blessings, large bonfires, prayers, traditional games and feasts.

- **Praise** God for Daba, Mulugeta and Tadesse and the volunteers around them, who have worked diligently to promote and distribute the Amharic and Oromo Bibletime booklets to more than 12 denominations throughout the country.
- Praise God that Daba, Mulugeta and the ECBC (Ethiopian Christian Brethren Churches) team have
 distributed Amharic Bibletime booklets to hundreds of churches and assemblies. Give thanks that they
 have trained thousands of teachers in Addis Ababa, Hawassa and Jima, in how to teach Bibletime to
 children and how to use the Bibletime resources in their communities.
- **Praise** God that over 200,000 Oromo Bibletime booklets have been distributed over the last 3 years by Tadesse and his CBS (Community Bible Study) colleagues to children in eastern and western regions of the country, in Harar, Diredawa, Alemaya, Jigiga and to three large churches, namely, the Evangelical Churches Fellowship of Ethiopia (ECFE), the Bethel Church and Oromo Evangelical Church.
- **Praise** God for the printing and shipping of 100,000 Bibletime booklets in Amharic and 140,000 Bibletime booklets in Oromo to Ethiopia in 2024. Despite the logistical issues of size, poor infrastructure and guerrilla warfare, many teachers are prepared to travel long distances for training and to collect the Bibletime resources for their communities. **Pray** for distribution and usage among young people.
- **Pray** for the challenges in translating the Bibletime material into Oromo and Amharic. Translation has been ongoing for many years with little progress in both languages. **Pray** for a renewed desire to move the projects forward from all those involved in translation and editing.



Gabon

Whilst 80% of the population identifies as Christian, Bwiti, a traditional spiritual practice and one of the three official religions in Gabon, is often incorporated into Christian celebrations. This includes elements of animism, ancestor worship, use of symbolic plants, dance and music. However, Easter and Christmas in Gabon are lively events, featuring colourful street parades, outdoor musical programmes and dance performances, and festive community buffets. Traditional Gabonese dishes are enjoyed during large family gatherings at outdoor picnics on Easter Monday.

- **Praise** God for Gilbert, a dedicated ZAM worker, who has effectively coordinated the distribution of Bibletime materials to more than 5,800 children in schools, 42 churches, and 3 major community ministries over the past 5 years. **Pray** for opportunities to further expand the distribution of Bibletime into additional regions through other children's ministries and denominations.
- **Pray** for effectiveness in the BES ministry seeing eternal fruit from all that the team do in reaching children with the Word of God in schools, Sunday Schools and remote rural villages.
- **Praise** God that the Bibletime resources have been distributed to teachers, church leaders and children in Bongolo, Lebamba, Loula-Moutou, Libreville, Mouila, Moanda, Ntoum, Nyanga, and Oyem.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will use the Bibletime syllabus to bring a sense of energy, revival, and
 encouragement to children and young people. Pray these materials also serve as a means to challenge
 them to deepen their relationship with God as they engage with His Word refreshingly and vibrantly through
 the BES programme.

Ghana

Christian festivals and traditional celebrations in Ghana offer unique experiences for children, each with distinct customs and practices. Christian festivals like Christmas and Easter are centred around the life and teachings of Jesus. Children attend church services and nativity plays, read from the Bible and exchange gifts. Traditional festivals, such as Homowo and Aboakyer, are deeply rooted in cultural heritage and commemorate historical events, harvests or ancestral spirits, which involve specific rituals, drumming, dancing and the wearing of traditional attire. Often entire villages or towns participate in these festivities.



- **Praise** God for the budding partnership which is emerging between Compassion International in Togo and The Hopespring Foundation in Ghana led by Afia. Compassion International in Togo partners with many Evangelical churches to implement their programmes to address child poverty. The Bibletime course is the exact resource they want to spiritually develop and nurture their children and youth, with its Biblical content and activities.
- **Praise** God the new ministry season from April to August saw many churches, para churches and Good News Clubs adopt Bibletime as their key resource for discipleship and scripture engagement programmes for children and young people.
- **Pray** for the training for the teachers in the use of the Teacher Guidelines. They are not familiar with the lesson structure but see it being a huge benefit and advantage in helping to teach the children the Word of God using guality materials.
- **Pray** for the proliferation of the Bibletime resources as many children join the studies, and as other ministries continue to adopt the programme. **Praise** God that children and teachers are thrilled to be receiving such helpful resources for their Sunday Schools.
- **Pray** for more Kingdom workers to partner with the ministry and expand the scope of influence in the Northern region of Ghana.
- **Pray** for endurance, protection and steadfastness for Afia, her Hopespring team and many of the volunteers who are working hard to reach children with the Gospel in difficult conditions of war, conflict, spiritual attack and persecution. Help them to be equipped with knowledge and skills so they can make an impact in their ministry circles and redeem children in all parts of Ghana and beyond.
- **Praise** God that Ghana Baptist Convention has distributed over 33,000 Bibletime booklets to children in their denomination. They have trained 1,139 teachers and leaders from 512 churches in 10 locations, and have placed a print order for 20,000 C1-C6 Bibletime booklets with a local print house.
- Praise God for Ireland Outreach which also distributes material in Ghana. In some schools, BES materials
 are used as textbooks in the Religious and Moral Education classes. Teachers have reported that the
 structured, engaging content is helping children better understand the Bible and apply its lessons in their
 daily lives. Additionally, churches have seen increased attendance in Sunday School programmes, with
 many children expressing a growing interest in learning more about God.
- **Praise** God that the Bibletime booklets have generated a desire for parents to see children being taught God's Word and raised in the fear of the Lord. Parents have shared that the resources have helped them have discussions about faith, God and the Bible within their households and the resources have helped the whole family to read the Bible together.



Ivory Coast

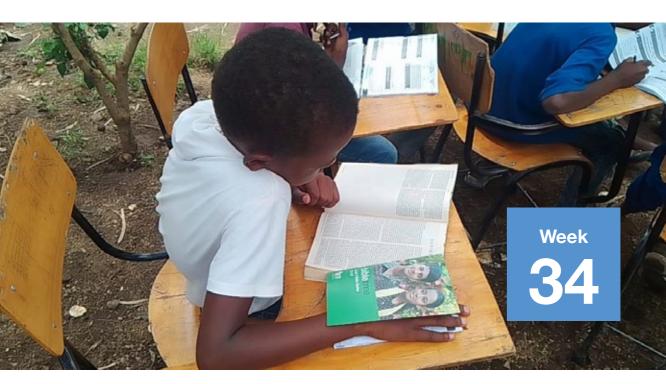
Ivory Coast, also known as Côte d'Ivoire, has a rich tapestry of Christian traditions that reflect its diverse cultural heritage. For example, the Basilica of Our Lady of Peace in Yamoussoukro is one of the largest churches in the world, modelled after St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and is seen as a symbol of the country's Christian faith. The Bété mask dance, performed by the Bété people, is often incorporated into Christian ceremonies and is a vibrant part of Ivorian culture. In many Christian communities, kola nuts are used in ceremonies to symbolise hospitality and respect, often seen during important events like weddings and church gatherings.

- **Praise** God for Sinza (a Minister at Word Alive Church and founder of the youth movement, Impact Jeunese, in Abidjan) and Armand Monhon Tindi (the coordinator of the Emmaus and BES courses with ZAM). They are currently distributing 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.
- **Praise** God for the training sessions they have both carried out. **Pray** for the planning and future organisation of training events for tutors and Sunday School teachers. **Pray** that God would be glorified during these events and educators will go on to promote and successfully teach the Word of God using Bibletime booklets
- **Pray** for the promotion of Bibletime to children in the north, the east and the southwest of the country. Work in the mission field can sometimes be very tough, so pray for the protection, endurance and health of those involved.
- **Pray** that more Bibletime booklets will be printed and shipped very soon and that financial support will be available to help with the distribution of BES materials.

Kenya

Over 80% of the population in Kenya identify as Christian. Many children attend Sunday School which is a foundational part of their religious education and community life. Children often participate in passion plays during Easter and nativity plays at Christmas. They also help with decorating homes with balloons, flowers, and green leaves instead of the more conventional tinsel and lights. Goat meat is a traditional dish served during Christmas feasts.

- Praise God for all volunteers and partner organisations using Bibletime in Kenya. Pray especially for
 Lazarus and Jane, who are our main contacts from Emmaus Worldwide. Praise God for their joy as they
 serve the Lord in this children's ministry. Pray for wisdom and discernment, as demand outstrips supply
 and Lazarus and Jane seek to give the Bibletime booklets to people who will responsibly use the resource.
- **Praise** God for Revival Movement who have printed and shipped over 1.9 million Bibletime booklets for the Kenyan children over the years. This is an invaluable free resource used in many churches, schools and Bible clubs to disciple children, teach them about God and train teachers. **Pray** that the seed sown will yield much eternal fruit.
- **Pray** especially for the schools' ministry where Bibletime is being used in the weekly timetable as an RE subject. **Thank** God for many children giving testimonies of how their spiritual eyes have been opened as they learned and studied the Word of God through the BES Bibletime lessons.
- Praise God for the Teacher Guidelines which assist the teachers with the planning of lessons and help
 them to teach children the appropriate message for their age. They seem thrilled with such helpful
 resources. Praise God that each teacher has received their own copy of the Teacher Guidelines and
 these materials have helped them grow in their Biblical knowledge and walk with God.





Malawi

In Malawi, Baptism is a celebration of welcoming little children into the Christian community. Like many places, it encompasses water immersion or sprinkling of the baby, symbolising purification and entry into the Christian family. It also includes a naming ceremony and the participation of godparents who pledge to support the child's spiritual growth. Confirmation, usually for adolescents or adults, involves the laying on of hands and anointing with holy oil, symbolising the sealing of the Holy Spirit. During this ceremony, the teenager renews their baptismal vows and reaffirms their faith. The event is typically celebrated with the church community and is often followed by communal gatherings and feasts.

- **Give thanks** that the Lord is giving help to continue working through the translation and revision of Bibletime into Chichewa. The A and B Series are officially finished and the team from SALT (South African Literature Trust) is making good progress with the C Series. **Pray** for this continued momentum and tremendous work.
- **Praise** God that the Level 4 Bibletime books are being used by women in a few local churches to fill the gap in teaching material in Chichewa. One woman mentioned that she is learning so many things about the Bible that she never knew before and that doing the courses helps fill her thoughts day and night with the Word of God!
- **Pray** for wisdom and guidance as the team seeks to train men and women throughout the country in conjunction with distributing a shipment of the Chichewa booklets. **Pray** for the Lord to raise and equip local men and women with a heart for this work, so the work can grow.
- **Praise** God that the Swahili Bibletime work in the Dzaleka refugee camp continues to expand. Dozens of new teachers who have been trained are starting children's clubs. **Pray** that the materials (in both Swahili and Chichewa) would be used in the salvation and spiritual growth of children and adults alike.

Mali

In Mali, Christmas celebrations are primarily church-centred, beginning with an all-night service on Christmas Eve featuring worship, preaching, and performances. Christmas Day is less about gifts and decorations, focusing instead on community and faith. Festive dishes shared with family and friends include a traditional dinner of chicken stew and spices or Jollof rice, a well-loved rice dish cooked in tomatoes, onions, chillies and various spices, giving it a vibrant red colour.

- **Praise** God for the use of Bibletime by Youssouf and his small group of ZAM workers. **Pray** for the spiritual growth and protection of the volunteers. **Pray** for God to deepen their relationship with Him as they serve, and to protect them from any spiritual attacks or discouragement. **Pray** that they would be continually filled with the Holy Spirit, growing in faith and becoming more effective in their ministry.
- **Praise** God that the shipment of French Bibletime material last year was received with much excitement and interest from both adults and children as there is currently no programme in the country which supplies children's Biblical literature.

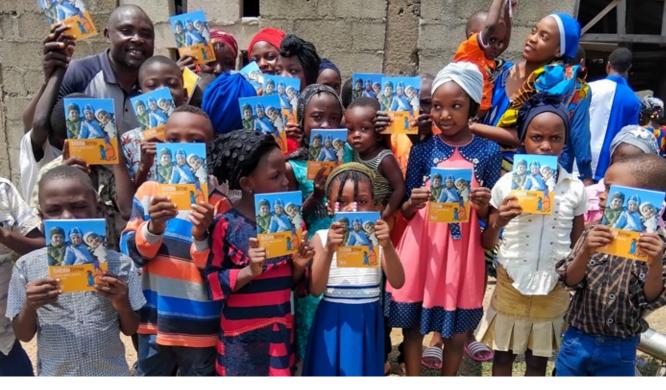




Mozambique

In Mozambique, Christian children celebrate Christmas by attending the "Misa da Noite do Natal" (Midnight Mass) on December 24th, followed by family gatherings, festive meals, and gift exchanges. Despite challenges related to poverty and limited access to education, Christianity continues to thrive throughout Mozambique today. In particular, young people are embracing new opportunities for spiritual growth through digital media platforms like podcasts or virtual meetings which provide them access even if they cannot attend church services physically due to work obligations or distance from church buildings.

- **Praise** God that the local assembly and evangelical churches are using the Portuguese Bibletime booklets in their Sunday Schools and both teachers and children are finding the Bibletime lessons a great source of help for their spiritual growth.
- **Pray** for a full-time volunteer to coordinate this children's ministry, for financial provision and transport for them.
- **Pray** for wisdom and guidance for his servants, Patrick, Grace and the small team of volunteers as they share the Bible's teachings with children. **Pray** the Lord will give them the right words and understanding to effectively communicate His message and disciple the children.
- **Pray** that the ministry would impact the Bonhiça community and they would be sensitive to the needs of each child and able to address any questions or challenges that arise during teacher training sessions with clarity and compassion.



Nigeria

RE is officially taught in schools, with a curriculum including both Christian Religious Studies and Islamic Religious Studies, providing students with a basic understanding of both beliefs, cultures and traditions. The greatest challenges for children are the risk of being abducted from school, a lack of teaching resources and qualified teachers, and poor infrastructure to get to school.

- Pray for Ireland Outreach coordinating the distribution of Bibletime in Nigeria. The team and other partners
 face daily threats of terrorism, tighter government restrictions on visa quotas and allocations, tougher
 constraints on international money transfers to support missionaries and their work, and continual threats
 to their safety when travelling throughout the country to promote the Gospel. Pray that God will protect
 them and intervene in all matters.
- **Praise** God for the open doors to distribute the Bibletime materials, especially in the northern region states of Kaduna and Yobe. The Bibletime booklets are used in the homes of Emmaus workers, neighbouring children, Street Bible Clubs, Sunday Schools, schools, and the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp, where 1.5 million children currently live. **Pray** for safety, especially with increasing cases of school kidnapping in the region.
- Whilst there are many opportunities to preach the Gospel, many of the children and adults are illiterate. It
 is estimated that over 70% of children cannot read. Pray that those who are literate will hold Bible studies
 with those who cannot read or write and many will accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.
- **Praise** God for the children's eagerness to study using the BES materials. Many have faithfully advanced from series to series and level to level and there is still much interest and excitement for the resources.
- Pray for the school and Sunday school teachers and Bible club leaders, that they would use the Teacher
 Guidelines to help them grow in their Biblical knowledge and walk with God and teach the children
 correctly using the BES resources.



Rwanda

On Christmas Day, it's common for families and communities to gather for large meals, often featuring traditional Rwandan dishes like brochettes (skewered meat) and ibirayi (potatoes). Easter is marked by attending church services, spending time with family and taking part in the Easter Vigil. Churches are adorned with colourful 'kanga' fabrics, and the atmosphere is filled with the sounds of drums and congregational hymns.

- **Praise** the Lord for His servants, Aminadab and Elyse, and the Teens for Christ Rwanda team, who use the Bibletime resources to disciple children and faithfully train teachers in their use.
- **Praise** God for the 500,000 English and Kinyarwanda Bibletime booklets shipped from Revival Movement since 2015. **Praise** God that Bibletime is used annually in over 310 Sunday schools, 85 schools and 46 families. Over 94,000 children use Bibletime in English or Kinyarwanda to learn about God each year.
- Praise God, in Kigali, over 14,000 teenagers in 24 schools benefit from Bibletime lessons every week. The
 Teacher Guidelines are utilised by TFC leaders in daily chapter meetings to plan lessons. Leaders, Sunday
 School teachers, and regular teachers have shared how the Teacher Guidelines have contributed to their
 spiritual growth and their ability to develop, plan and teach children.
- **Praise** God that the 'A' Series of Bibletime has been translated and printed into Kinyarwanda and is already used by many children. **Pray** for the translation of the remaining Bibletime Series into Kinyarwanda.
- Over 8,000 churches in Rwanda have been closed by the Government, leaving 20,000 people without a
 place to worship. 156 Inkuru Nziza churches (Christian Brethren) have closed, leaving only 12 open. Before
 these churches can reopen, they must meet strict conditions, including, appointing a qualified church
 leader, adherence to noise control regulations, compliance with health and safety standards, and meeting
 building requirements. Pray for financial support to rebuild churches and formal training for pastors to
 enable the reopening of places of worship.

South Africa

As of 2024, the population of South Africa was 64 million. Over 28% of the population is under 15 years old, and it is estimated there are roughly 15.3 million Christian children in South Africa. The country has some unique Christmas carols which reflect its rich cultural diversity. For example, the children sing "Somerkersfees". This Afrikaans carol, meaning "Summer Christmas," celebrates the festive season in the warm South African summer. "Vrae aan Maria" translates to "Questions to Mary" and is a touching carol reflecting on the nativity.

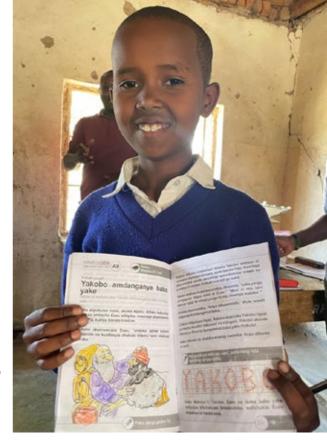
- Pray for the translation of the Bibletime material into African and Afrikaans languages. Pray for dedicated
 volunteers to come forward and form a skilled team to handle the translation and editing of the BES
 syllabus.
- Pray for more volunteers to promote and take the Bibletime forward into schools. Praise God for Peter, who is based in Soshanguve and works in rural schools, and for Pralad who works in Port Shepstone, South of Durban.
- Praise God for Marlon and Judy, who have worked hard over many years to meet the growing demand for
 adult Emmaus and BES children's material. Praise God that Judy coordinates the ministry in South Africa
 as Marlon was recently appointed the International Coordinator of Emmaus Worldwide. Praise God that
 Marlon is looking forward to improving the strategic partnership between Emmaus Worldwide and BES
 globally.
- **Praise** God that Bibletime has been promoted in every province in South Africa by Marlon and Judy and many children in rural villages have come to faith through Bibletime. **Pray** for the local church leaders and teachers to continue their zeal for Bibletime and help the future generation grow in their faith.



Week

Tanzania

In Tanzania, much like in many other parts of the world, families celebrate Christmas, by coming together and spending time with loved ones. Homes and public spaces are adorned with Christmas trees, lights, and nativity scenes. Attending church on Christmas Day is central, with special services involving carols and prayers. Christmas dinner features traditional dishes like ugali (maize meal), chicken, and fish, with seafood being popular in coastal areas. Music and dancing are integral to the celebrations, with communities organising events for traditional and modern performances. Many people buy new clothes for Christmas to add to the festive spirit.



- **Praise** God that the translation of Bibletime is complete. Give thanks to Liz Ombeni, her team, and the team led by Dr. Lawi who worked diligently on the Swahili translation.
- Praise God that in 2024, a total of 915,652 children in 17 regions of Tanzania actively engaged with the Bibletime resources, surpassing the target of reaching 800,000 children. This achievement reflects a substantial impact on the spiritual lives of children and successful outreach efforts of the World Vision (WV) team. Pray for the Lord to water the seed planted in the hearts of children through the Bibletime resources so that they grow in the knowledge of God and experience His love.
- Praise God that Revival Movement has printed and shipped over 1.3 million Swahili Bibletime booklets to
 Tanzania since 2021. Over 1 million booklets in the A Series and 240,000 in the B Series. Pray that God
 will provide the finance and time needed to meet the demand of printing and shipping more material to
 them over the next 3-4 years. The introduction of the BES material has been so successful that demand
 has already outstripped supply.
- **Praise** God for the Teacher Guidelines which have thrilled and excited so many teachers. Many of them have reported that they have never seen such colourful and amazing resources to teach Biblical studies to children. **Pray** that this material will improve their understanding and help them grow in their faith in God.
- **Pray** for the commitment of children's ministers to continue to work with the Lord to effectively engage 1,000,000 children, which is the target set to be achieved by the end of 2025. **Pray** for wisdom for David and the team as they continue to train teachers and allocate resources, and that all the ministries involved in this project will be blessed.
- Pray for families to prioritise time for family devotion and discipleship in their daily lives. Pray for parents to
 be committed to buying Bibles for their children, particularly those using Level 3 and 4 Bibletime booklets.
 Pray for God's provision of a Bible through our partners for children from the most vulnerable families.



Uganda

In Uganda, Christmas is referred to as Sekukkulu and holds significant cultural importance. The festivities commence on December 24th with a "watch night" service, during which families gather in churches, decorated with beautiful lights and ornaments, to partake in carol singing and prayer. On Christmas Day, the people return to their hometowns to reunite with family and friends. It is a time for communal games, carol singing and feasting, often featuring traditional dishes like matoke (steamed bananas), rice, chicken, and beef. Sekukkulu embodies the values of love, sharing, and community.

- **Praise** God that we may have identified a new partner, with an extensive established network of schools and churches, to bring a container of material into the country.
- **Pray** for some passionate volunteers and an organisation to take the lead, with the skills and storage space needed to bring a container of Bibletime material into the country.
- **Praise** God that many smaller organisations are interested in using the Bibletime material once it has arrived in the country.



Zambia

Christianity is the predominant religion in Zambia, with about 85% of the population identifying as Christian. Zambian Christian culture has several unique customs that reflect the country's rich cultural heritage. These include holding 'Kuseni Kuseni', which are all-night prayer vigils involving singing, dancing, telling Bible stories, and fervent prayers at significant times during Easter and Christmas.

- **Praise** God for the 100,000 children in Zambia who have studied the Word of God in the last 2 years using Bibletime in their various churches, schools and orphanages and for those unchurched children who are using them in their homes to learn English. Willie, Patrick and Chishimba believe that over 1,000 churches across 7 denominations are using Bibletime to teach Bible stories to young people.
- **Pray** for all the volunteers serving on the BES Zambia board as they oversee and manage the practical work, establish regional coordinators, distribute the resources and arrange training sessions. In 50 training sessions conducted between 2022 and 2024, over 8,000 teachers received training on how to plan and teach a Bibletime lesson to children. **Pray** for more teachers to be successfully trained through the 'Train the Trainer' programme.
- **Pray** for the successful identification of reliable partners to collaborate with and for the training and distribution of Bibletime material in English and Bemba in 5 out of the 10 provinces in Zambia. Currently, there are 49 regional coordinators stationed in the Copperbelt Province, Lusaka Province, Northern and North Western Province, as well as in Luapula Province. **Praise** God for their enthusiasm and dedication.
- **Pray** for the provision of a van or suitable transport to help with the distribution of BES resources to the towns and villages within these provinces.
- **Praise** God for Revival Movement and the BES office, who have printed and shipped BES material in Bemba, Kaonde and English to Zambia. Willie and the team have distributed over 2.4 million booklets to children in these languages since 2015.



Zimbabwe

As of 2024, Zimbabwe had a population of 16.7 million people, with 86% identifying as Christian. Christian festivals are vibrant events with children participating in nativity plays, Easter egg hunts, dancing, carol singing, and family gatherings. Sadza (a thick cornmeal porridge) and Bota (a thinner version) are commonly eaten during Christmas and Easter meals with roast meats, rice, and Nyama (Beef stew).

- Praise God for Nyasha (SIM Serving In Mission), the main coordinator of the BES ministry based in Mutare, Zimbabwe. Pray for protection, spiritual blessing and the help of God as Nyasha and her team lead and coordinate training and distribution of the Bibletime booklets to the Zimbabwean children in 10 provinces. Praise God for Walter and Ella, in Harare, who store the Bibletime material and have promoted it and used it for many years with thousands of children.
- Revival Movement has printed and shipped 385,000 Bibletime booklets and Teacher Guidelines to Zimbabwe since 2015. **Praise** God for the growth of BES, which has recently reached 6, 572 children (2,410 students and 4,162 children in churches) in 63 new schools and churches.
- **Give thanks** for the growing partnerships with various churches, specifically prioritising collaboration with children's ministries. Nyasha and the team have successfully conducted 7 workshops, where they trained leaders and teachers from 57 churches. These workshops were tailored to equip participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to serve in this children's ministry effectively.
- **Praise** God for more volunteers willing to work with children in schools and churches to adopt the Bibletime booklets as a curriculum for their children's ministry.
- **Pray** for more schools to engage with the work, especially in rural areas where children hear about Jesus Christ but lack the materials to read and learn more about Him.
- **Pray** for a reliable means of transport to help the team distribute resources in rural and urban areas, as the lack of transport is slowing down their outreach efforts.
- **Pray** for the children already using Bibletime stories to know God at a personal level and accept Him as their Lord and Saviour.

Asian & Australasian Continents

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Bangladesh

Islam is the largest religion of the nation with over 90% of the population identifying themselves as a follower of Islam. Christians make up 0.37% of the country's population. Christian children face significant challenges in Bangladesh, so organisations like Christian Ministry to Children and Youth, Life 4 Bangladesh, Children of the Hills and Compassion International Bangladesh all play a crucial role in improving the lives of Christian children in Bangladesh by providing essential services and support.

- Praise God that through the BES materials, Foyez and his team from SIM have been able to reach children
 who did not know about Christianity and bring them the Word of God. Praise God that they have been able
 to translate and print over 2,000 copies of the Bibletime material in two dialects (Local and Muslim Bengali).
- **Praise** God that 450 children study the Bible with Bibletime through the Bangladesh Bible Correspondence School (BDBCS). **Pray** the children will enjoy using these materials as they learn from the Bible and deepen their knowledge and love for Him. **Pray** for protection over them.
- Over the last 12 months Foyez and his team have arranged 11 children's camps with about 800 children using
 the Bibletime lessons. Pray that each of these children will come to know Jesus as their personal Saviour.
- **Pray** for the team as they aim to introduce the BES resources to 10 new Sunday Schools and train 15 new teachers in Bangladesh every 6 months. **Pray** the Teacher Guidelines will benefit the trainers as they learn how to teach the Bible stories to children and improve their faith and understanding of the Bible.
- **Pray** for colleagues and mentors who promote the Muslim Bengali Bibletime material online. Every day, they connect with new students through various social media sites.
- **Pray** for resources to facilitate ongoing printing needs.

Cambodia

Christianity is a minority religion in Cambodia, with only about 0.4% of the population identifying as Christian. Christian children often learn to navigate their faith within a predominantly Buddhist culture. This can involve participating in cultural festivals and respecting Buddhist traditions while maintaining their Christian beliefs. Christmas is not an officially recognised public holiday, but Christian families will decorate a tree and share a festive meal of chicken, rice and bread.

- **Pray** for the protection and health of Insun and his family as they have faced many challenges and barriers while working tirelessly in this country to spread the Gospel and translate and distribute Christian literature with other Emmaus workers.
- **Praise** God that the translation of Bibletime in the lower levels, and the Teacher Guidelines are finally drafted in the Khmer language. **Pray** that the team will be content that the translation is good enough to print and publish and children can begin to use the resources to learn about God.
- **Pray** for a thirst for God's Word and the Bibletime material as it is eventually promoted and introduced to schools, orphanages and Christian families. **Pray** for spiritual growth, understanding and Salvation for all those who encounter the resource.







China

Christianity, like other religions in China, is heavily regulated and censored by the government. However, recent unofficial estimates suggest over 100 million Chinese belong to independent unregistered Christian house churches! A popular tradition among young people is to gift apples on Christmas Eve, known as "Peace Apples," symbolising peace and good wishes.

- **Praise** God for the progress with the translation and design of Bibletime into simple Chinese. The A, B and C Series' are now complete and available for download from the BES website. **Praise** God for those involved in this project, their endurance in isolation, and their diligence and faith when facing personal danger.
- Pray that with the amount of numeracy and literacy content within the Bibletime resources, they will
 be classified as 'educational' by the government which will allow them to be placed onto websites for
 downloading.
- **Pray** that restrictions will be lifted by the government to allow Chinese Bibletime on the SunScool App to be accessed by children throughout China.
- **Pray** for creative and effective strategies to distribute and share Bibletime in officially recognised State churches and underground house churches.



Farsi

Farsi, also known as Persian, is spoken by approximately 110 million people worldwide. Farsi is primarily spoken in Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan. There are also significant Farsi-speaking communities in Uzbekistan, Iraq, Russia, and other countries like Turkey and the USA.

- **Praise** God that the Bibletime syllabus and Teacher Guidelines have been translated and are available to freely download from the BES website.
- **Pray** that the Lord will break all barriers of resistance to the distribution and use of the Farsi Bibletime booklets amongst the Farsi diaspora. **Pray** that the Holy Spirit will shatter an attitude of indifference to God and open hearts to the good news of the Gospel.
- **Pray** for those students who are counting the cost of following Jesus before making a decision, which can lead to rejection by family, friends and society, imprisonment and even death. **Pray** that they will trust The Lord for everything in their lives.



India

Approximately 30 million Christians are living in India, making up about 2.3% of the population. Christmas is celebrated with great enthusiasm, especially in states like Goa and Kerala where most Christians live. In addition to the usual carols and nativity plays, many Indian Christians decorate mango or banana trees instead of the traditional pine tree and children hang large colourful paper stars outside their homes to symbolise the Star of Bethlehem.

- BES India is coordinated by Bejoy, and assisted by Biju, Rejoy and their families. They supervise the
 translation, design work and printing of the Bibletime Series into 6 languages, using local people. Praise
 God Hindi, Malayalam and Telugu translation projects are complete. Pray for the translation and design
 work of Bibletime in C Series for Bengali and Tamil which are in progress.
- **Praise** God that they have remained active, safe and healthy and have reached over 264,000 children in 6 languages with Bibletime in the last 5 years, despite the continual threat of persecution with increasing government restrictions on religious freedom.
- **Pray** for financial provision. Printing Bibletime and the written Word in the 6 main languages ensures that the distribution of Bibletime booklets to children is more effective, especially in more remote rural communities and 'hard to reach' locations in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, where there is little or no internet connection for digital communication.
- **Praise** God for His continued provision of teachers and those who have a passion to reach the next generation with the Word of God. Having a personal printed copy of the Teacher Guidelines in their language as a reference empowers them to effectively communicate God's truth to children and spread His Kingdom on earth.



Myanmar (Burma)

Myanmar is in Southeast Asia and while the broader conflict within the country has been ongoing for decades, the surge in violence and civil unrest has been particularly intense since February 2021. Christian festivals are often subdued and adapted to the challenging circumstances the people find themselves in, with many of them displaced by the ongoing fighting. A popular dish still enjoyed at Christmas is Bom Can, a special dish made from sticky rice and red beans cooked inside bamboo sticks and grilled over a barbecue.

- **Praise** God for 'T' and 'R' who have translated the A and B Series of Bibletime into Falam Chin and Burmese. Within the next 12 months, they should conclude the C Series translation. They and their families have endured many hardships. **Pray** for their continued protection, safety, health and courage as they reach out with Bibletime whilst on humanitarian missions to towns and villages.
- **Pray** for an end to the civil war. **Pray** for peace, harmony, and military stability in Myanmar, which allows the Bibletime material in Burmese to be embraced by all churches across the nation, and the translated Bibletime booklets in Falam Chin to be adopted by local churches and groups in Chin state.
- **Pray** for a committed full-time BES worker in Myanmar, who has been guided by the Spirit as they seek to effectively communicate Biblical truth to children, using the Teacher Guidelines and Bibletime booklets.
- **Praise** God that the Bibletime material is used in 3 private schools to teach children, and that amid the war and natural disasters, classes are still being held. 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. There is great demand for the BES material because of its structured methodical layout.
- **Praise** God for the bespoke online training sessions conducted via Zoom, which have continued amidst the prevailing unrest. Numerous teachers and pastors have received training on how to effectively instruct children in Bibletime. **Pray** for the fruitful outcomes of this initiative.



Malaysia

In Malaysia, most Christians reside in the East, particularly in the states of Sabah and Sarawak, where they make up a significant portion of the population. At Christmas, people attend large public firework displays and instead of traditional gifts, it's common to give money in red packets, known as "Ang Paos".

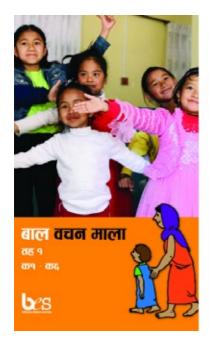
- **Pray** for a renewed interest to be shown in the Bibletime material, especially in churches, Sunday Schools and clubs where Christians live.
- **Pray** for someone to feel called to assemble a team to translate the material into Malay, spoken by 290 million people worldwide.

Mongolia

Christianity in Mongolia is a minority religion, with approximately 30,000 Christians living in Mongolia's capital, Ulaanbaatar. Christmas is celebrated uniquely, often blending with New Year festivities due to the country's predominant Buddhist and indigenous beliefs. Instead of Christmas trees, Mongolians decorate "New Year's Trees." These trees are adorned with lights, ornaments, and sometimes even local currency (tugriks) as a gesture of goodwill.

- Praise God for 'D H K', his wife, and the volunteers translating Bibletime into Mongolian. The A and B Series' are complete and only Level 4 of the C Series booklets is outstanding. Pray for the translation of Level 0 and the Teacher Guidelines.
- Praise God that teacher training sessions have been held and the material was well received by over 100 teachers because of its thorough content and good structure.
- Pray that God would continue to uphold, sustain and protect those involved in this children's ministry in such a difficult environment.
- Praise God that several outreach events
 have been held and over 4,000 children are
 completing the courses in over 60 churches
 each month. They have delighted in learning
 the key Bible verses and God's truths as they
 do the numeracy and literacy puzzles within
 the booklets. Pray for more opportunities to
 promote the resources.











Nepal

Christianity is one of the fastest-growing religions in Nepal. Despite facing significant anti-conversion laws and social ostracism, the number of Christians has increased significantly over the past few decades and the community continues to grow and thrive. Official figures from the 2021 census, state there are 500,000 Christians in Nepal, but some estimates suggest the actual number could be 3 million.

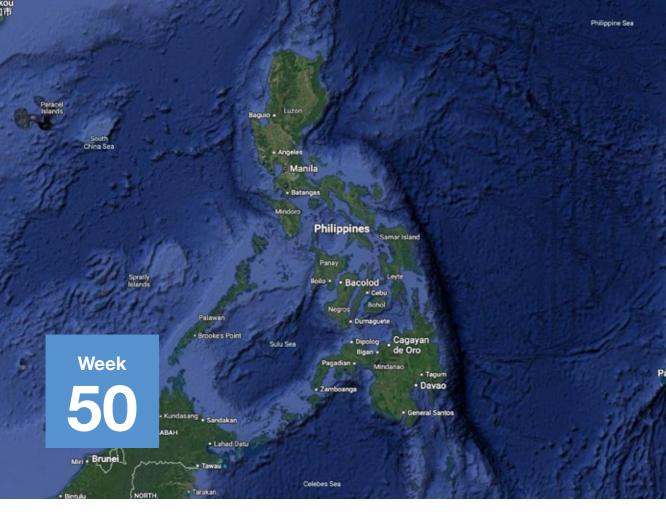
- **Praise** God for the unity and steadfastness of Pratibha and FONIC Trust as they design and print the Bibletime material into Nepali. **Pray** that as she has sought comfort and strength from the Lord in all that she does, He will bless her and the team in this project.
- **Praise** God that over 3,500 copies of Levels 1 and 2 A Series Bibletime in Nepali were printed for the first time. Pray for the challenges of rising inflation and high paper costs as more booklets across all levels are scheduled to be published and distributed to children living in remote rural areas.
- **Pray** for protection and guidance for the teachers as they travel to remote villages for outreach work and as they give the necessary time and commitment to making Bibletime available to the children they are responsible for in the schools and villages.
- **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.



Pakistan

Christianity in Pakistan is the third largest religion, comprising about 1.37% of the population. Most Pakistani Christians live in Punjab, with significant populations in Karachi and Islamabad. Despite discrimination and persecution, Christians in Pakistan contribute significantly to society, particularly in education and healthcare. Christian families celebrate holidays and festivals with a blend of religious observance, family traditions, and community activities.

- 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) prints the Bibletime resources locally. **Pray** for funding to print the Bibletime courses and make them freely available to children.
- **Praise** God that 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. **Pray** that the students taking the Bibletime course are growing in their Christian faith and their walk with the Lord and that they do not feel intimidated or ashamed to defend their faith.
- Pray for more schools, Sunday Schools and youth clubs in villages to use the Bibletime booklets.
- **Pray** for the outreach work and Holiday Bible Clubs in the local villages by Noor Ministries. They attract thousands of unchurched children, and the Bibletime booklets are a great source of educational material for them.



Philippines

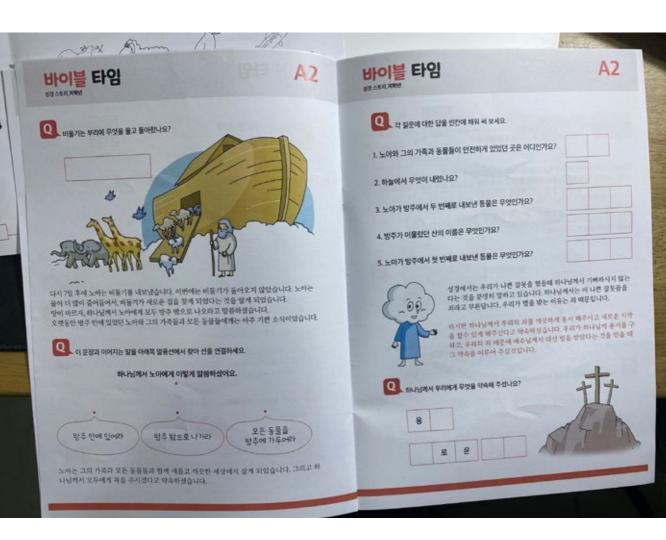
90 million Christians live in the Philippines and Christmas celebrations in the Philippines are renowned for being the longest in the world, starting as early as September and lasting until the first Sunday of January, which is the Feast of the Three Kings. This extended festive period is often referred to as the "Ber Months" (September, October, November, December) and is characterised by early decorations, carol singing, and various festivities.

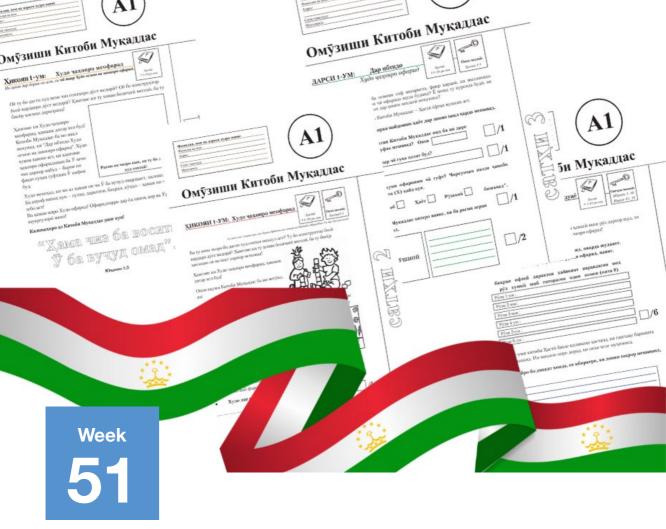
- There are limited supplies of English Bibletime in The Philippines, and currently no BES worker. **Pray** for committed believers who have been guided by the Spirit to volunteer for this ministry in The Philippines.
- **Pray** for guidance as to whether Levels 1 and 2 of Bibletime should be translated into the local languages of Visaya and Tagalog for younger children who have not yet learnt English so more children can be reached. **Pray** for the formation of a translation team and for this new project to begin.

South Korea

Christianity has grown significantly in South Korea over the past century. In 1900, only about 1% of the population was Christian, but by 2024, roughly 30% identified as Christian, approximately 14 million people. This growth is largely attributed to the efforts of missionaries, the rise in Nationalism, economic development and education.

- **Praise** God for Seo and his small team of volunteers who have started translating and designing the new A Series Bibletime booklets. **Pray** for financial provision as they start with Level 2 and will move to Level 3.
- There is huge potential for the BES children's ministry in South Korea, as connections with over 240 assemblies, churches and other ministry partners were made several years ago.
- **Pray** that through using Bibletime, children will understand God's Word, His message and plan for their lives.

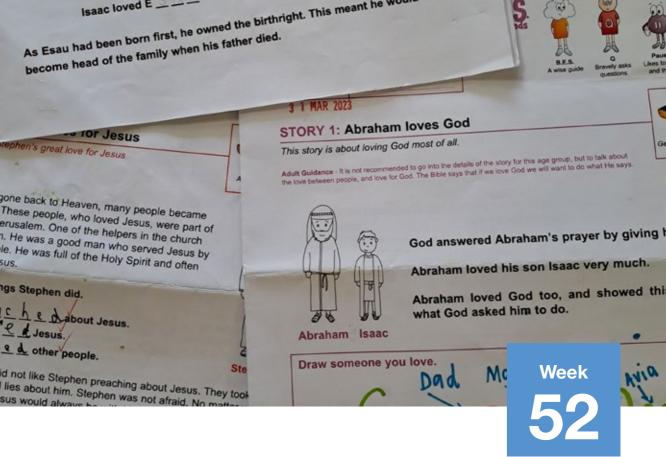




Tajikistan

Christian children living in Tajikistan face significant challenges due to government restrictions on religious activities. For instance, authorities have instructed Protestant churches and Muslim mosques to stop allowing children to participate in worship services. This is part of the broader restrictions under the Religion and Parental Responsibility Laws, which prohibit children from being taught religion or involved in religious activities. Despite these challenges, the Christian community in Tajikistan remains resilient and continues to practise their faith with courage and determination.

- **Praise** God for the dedication and hard work of the team in translating Bibletime into Tajik. The syllabus is complete and is available for download on the BES website.
- Pray the Bibletime material will be a blessing to all those who read it and learn about God and His ways.



Australia

Unlike many parts of the world, Australians celebrate Christmas during their summer holidays. This means that Christmas activities often include beach outings, BBQs and outdoor events, like 'Carols by Candlelight' where families gather in parks to sing carols together under the stars.

- Praise God for PSSM Bible Discovery. The team has successfully established a new registered
 organisation with the federal government to extend the ministry's reach across Australia. They have
 retained the organisation's name, reflecting its history since 1933 and affirming their commitment to the
 Bible.
- **Pray** for clarity and success as they navigate the process of developing a new website, ensuring it effectively promotes the ministry. Also, **pray** for God's provision in forming new partnerships that will help expand the reach and impact of PSSM Bible Discovery throughout Australia, especially with New Zealand and Papa New Guinea.
- **Praise** God for the volunteers who selflessly serve at PSSM Bible Discovery. **Pray** that He would bless their efforts, sustain their passion, and deepen their connection to the mission as they give their time and talents.
- Pray for God's wisdom as we explore opportunities to use BES material in Oceania, guiding our decisions
 and strategy in reaching communities across the region. Pray that He will open doors to form strong,
 lasting relationships with local churches and leaders, fostering partnerships that will support the spread of
 the gospel through BES materials, especially across the regions of Oceania and further development in Fiji
 and surrounding islands.



Finance, Legacy Gift & Sponsorship

BES is a faith-based ministry and depends on the Lord to meet its financial needs through His people. BES Trustees have developed a funding policy which seeks to support BES partners in the UK and worldwide when we have the means to do so.

If you or others wish to support any of the projects, countries or individuals mentioned, BES will gladly allocate funds as directed. Financial support can be given by filling out the attached form or via the BES website – www.besweb.com through PayPal, or directly by Standing Order. For further details, please contact the BES office finance@besweb.com.

If you would like to remember BES in your Will and leave a gift to grow God's Kingdom, please get in touch. BES would be extremely grateful for your generous pledge and it would support us in our mission and vision, 'To present the truth of Jesus Christ to the next generation in their own language.'

 Please pray that the Lord will burden His people to contribute to the work of BES, and that we will be faithful stewards of the financial resources entrusted to us.

Thank you!

The BES Trustees want to express our sincere thanks to all the individuals, churches and trusts who have partnered with us in prayer and supported our Ministry through recent years. We recognise God's provision through His people and **praise** God that all our financial needs have been met over the years. Our thanks go to all those who have contributed in some way or another.

As we consider the growth of the work and God's provision , we can only say "This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes." Psalm 118: 23



BES would be happy to speak to a small group of people from your church or organisation via video conferencing or face-to-face 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.

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