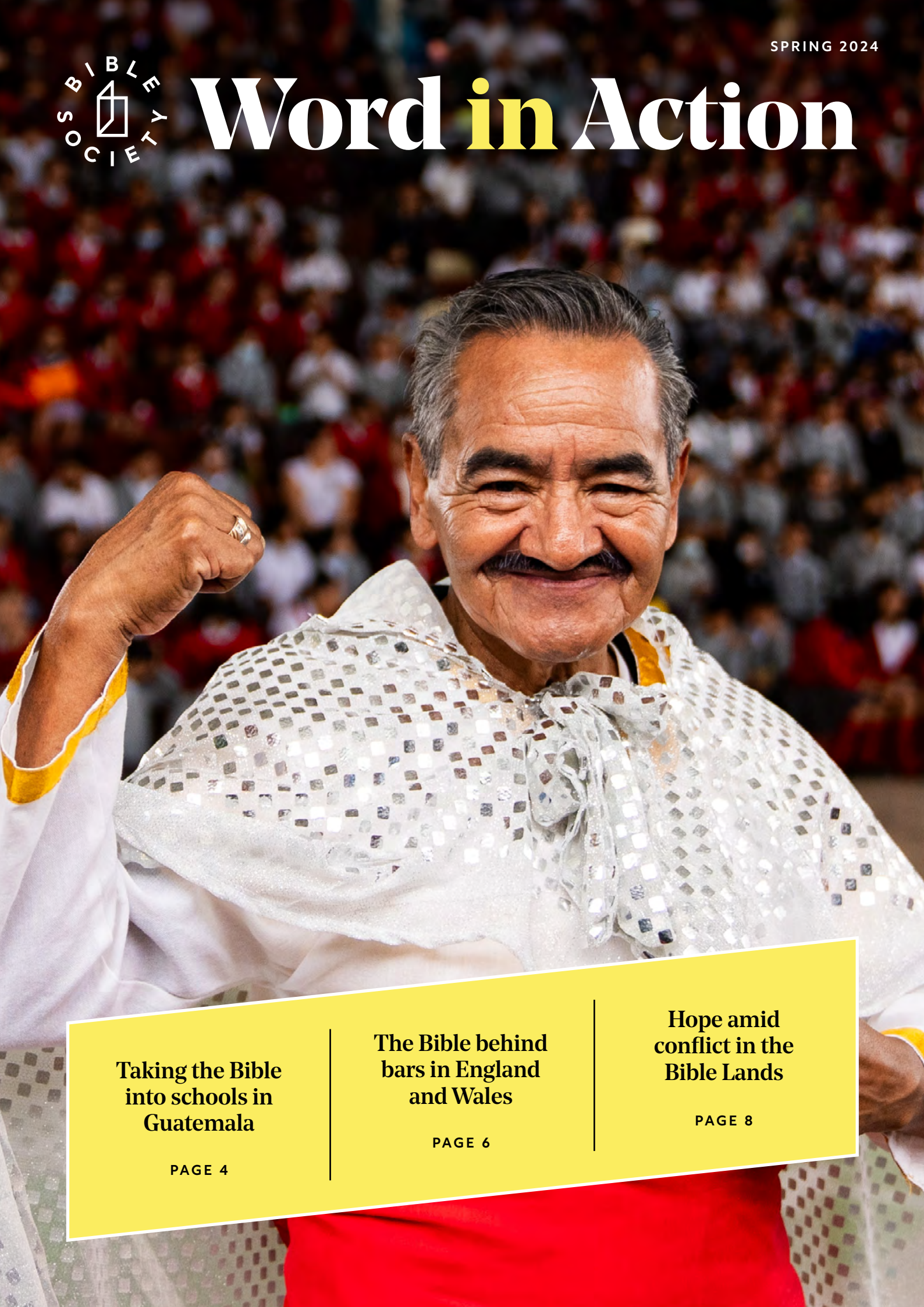




Word **in** Action



**Taking the Bible
into schools in
Guatemala**

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bars in England
and Wales**

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conflict in the
Bible Lands**

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Welcome to the Spring Edition

EDITOR'S NOTE

Brothers and sisters

The first thing I look for when I plan an edition of *Word in Action* is a great photo for the cover – hopefully one that will encourage you to dive inside.

My colleagues have praised this edition as being one of the best yet. Maybe they're just being kind during these bleak midwinter days, or maybe it's true!

One thing I'm very happy about is the photo of Pastor Juan Fidel on the cover. Whenever I felt down in the dumps after all the excitement of Christmas, I looked at that photo and experienced a jolt of joy. The enthusiasm on his face is infectious. 'Come on, let's do it!' he's saying to me. I hope it has the same effect on you. I'm putting a poster of that photo on my study wall.

Pastor Juan Fidel and Open the Book volunteers are taking Bible stories to children and others in the slum areas of Guatemala City. Read more about it on pages 4 and 5. You're supporting their amazing work, and Open the Book in Guatemala is a brilliant example of how your kindness is shining the light of Jesus in some of the darkest places.

I hope you like this edition of *Word in Action* too. Please write in to tell me your thoughts and share your stories.

God bless you all.

Simon Bartz, Editor



A CHAT WITH OUR CEO

Why is Open the Book so crucial to Bible mission?

Open the Book (see pages 4 and 5) takes Bible storytelling into schools and in many ways is a perfect example of what Bible Society is all about.

It unites Christians of different denominations to work together, creating a trusted meeting place around the Bible. And at the centre of it all is being able to equip a new generation with a knowledge of the Bible. It is vital to make the Bible accessible to all ages in ways they can understand, and it's especially important that children have the chance to engage with the Scriptures.

The stories in the Bible have shaped a whole civilisation over thousands of years and we neglect them in society at our peril. They've inspired all kinds of social change and reform, and transformed people's lives on a personal level.

Through Open the Book, Bible stories can inspire school communities and parents – even those without a faith.

As Open the Book is a catalyst for change inspired and shaped by the Bible, so the programme exemplifies every dimension of Bible Society's strategy to grow people's confidence in the Bible and help change the conversation about the Bible in wider society.

Is it true you now know two kings on a personal level?

I'm not sure I would describe my meeting with King Charles III as getting to know him on a personal level [laughs]. I do, of course, have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only king that we really need to know. But it was a privilege to attend an Advent service and meet King Charles at the gathering arranged by Bible Society's President, Archbishop Angaelos of London. The king expressed an interest in our work, especially in the Middle East at this time, and he recognised the reconciliatory potential of the Bible.

Paul Williams, Bible Society's Chief Executive

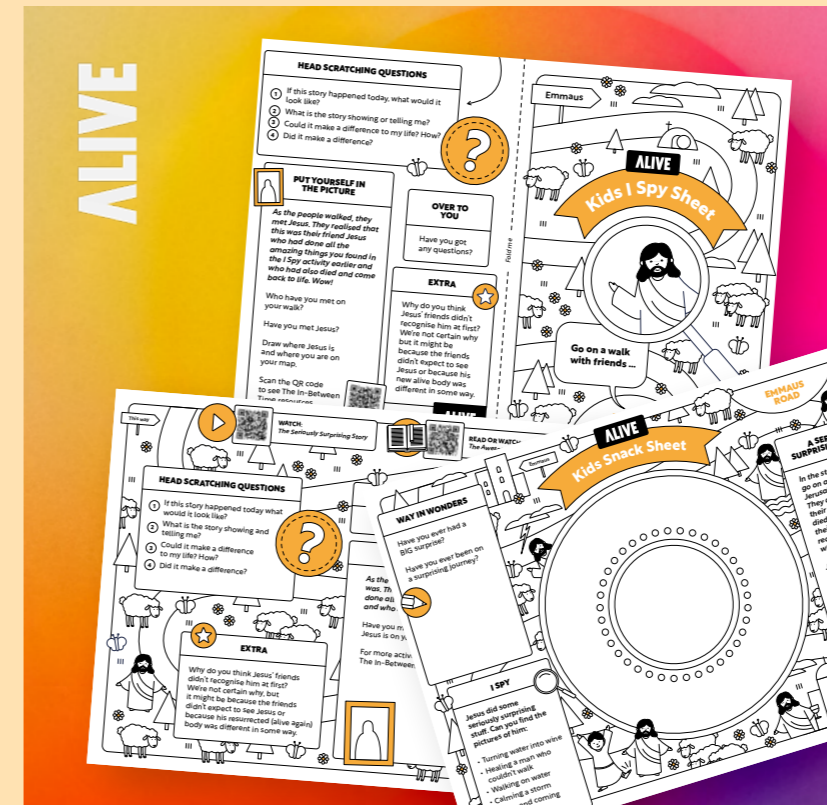
Cover photo: Pastor Juan Fidel Perez is said to be the most enthusiastic Open the Book volunteer as he takes the Bible into schools in dangerous areas of Guatemala City (see story on pages 4-5). Photo credit: Matt Cooper/Bible Society

Word in Action design: Emily Gorham

Online ordering: shop.biblesociety.org.uk/wia
For all enquiries call 01793 418222

Alive at Easter

Resources to help you share the good news



This Easter, Bible Society is partnering with Hope Together on an exciting project called Alive – Easter 2024. Our aim is to support families with easy-to-use resources to help them explore and share the good news of the resurrection.

There are downloadable snack sheets (for mealtime sharing) and I Spy sheets (for using on family walks) that are fun, interactive and thought provoking. In addition to the activities on the page, there are links to videos and other downloadable resources that are perfect for children to learn more about the Easter story and what happened after Easter Sunday.

Share the good news of the Easter story with our children's booklet *The Awesome Easter Surprise*, accompanied by a new video animation.

It tells the wonderful stories of the people who met with Jesus after his resurrection – much to their surprise! With a clear gospel message and colourful illustrations, *The Awesome Easter Surprise* is the perfect gift for children in your family, church, schools and community. The booklets are available in English, Welsh, Ukrainian, Russian and Farsi and are priced at £3 each with great bulk discount pricing.

There's also a free-to-download Awesome Easter Pop-up Service resource and accompanying children's activity pack. The pop-up service can be performed at your church or school with minimal preparation and tells



the Easter story in a fun and engaging way, complete with a narrator, character instructions and prop suggestions.

It doesn't end with Easter either! You can download the Pop-up Pentecost Family Service resource for free. It's a creative and engaging all-age service to celebrate the birth of the Church on Pentecost Sunday.



For all your Easter resources go to biblesociety.org.uk/easter or scan the QR code



Sharing Bible stories in Guatemalan schools

WORDS BY BETH READ



Scan here or visit biblesociety.org.uk/guatemala-wia to support this project

Thanks to your support, children are learning about Jesus at Mixco Public School. Here, Open the Book volunteers dramatise a Bible story. Photos: Matt Cooper/Bible Society

Guatemala has one of the highest murder rates in Latin America with 3,500 violent deaths each year, mainly through gang activity and drug trafficking disputes. Perhaps that is why so many children and young people are open to seeking Jesus. They yearn for hope and peace. And your support of the Open the Book ministry is providing it to them.

We arrive at a metal gate and hear a bolt being slowly drawn across on the inside. The gate creaks open and a lady welcomes us with a warm smile. 'Come on in,' she says.

Inside, we turn a corner and are met by the incredible sight of 600 children aged between 4 and 12 seated in a small stadium singing a gospel song.

This is an Open the Book session and the Bible story today is 'Free at Last'. A team of 14 Open the Book volunteers and 10 children act out the story of Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt.

Mixco Public School is in Tierra Nueva, a dangerous slum area at the northern tip of Guatemala City, the capital. Crime is rampant and some of these children have already been recruited into gangs. The volunteers tell us that the children especially identify with the Bible stories of overcoming trials and obstacles. They listen closely to how we can trust in God and find hope and peace in Jesus.

Julianna, aged 8, who played an Egyptian girl in the story, tells us she wants to be a police officer

when she is older so she can protect people. Her favourite story is Daniel 'because he bravely went into the lions den'.

Cristal enjoys Open the Book because, 'I learn about what is good and what is bad.' Rosita says she wants to be a pastor. Her favourite Bible passage is Genesis 1.1 because, 'We learn that God created the heavens and the Earth so we could come and live in it.' While Jennifer says, 'After hearing the Bible stories, I now know how to talk to God.' She adds that when she is older she wants to be a doctor so she can help people living on the streets.

The Open the Book session ends with a prayer and the children bow their heads and pray earnestly.

“

The children identify with the Bible stories of overcoming trials and obstacles. They listen closely to how we can trust in God and find hope and peace in Jesus.”

Guatemala has a population of 19 million. Bible Society of Guatemala started running Open the Book in 2023 and already volunteers are taking the storytelling to 3,000 children at 6 schools. Bible storytelling teams also visit youth detention centres, young single mothers and schools for children with additional needs and physical disabilities. This is all supported by you here in England and Wales.



Beth Read, Head of Fundraising

If you are interested in becoming an Open the Book Storyteller in England and Wales find out more at biblesociety.org.uk/openthebook



Jennifer, Cristal and Rosita (top), all 11, have accepted Jesus into their lives and now want to help others in one of the roughest neighbourhoods in Guatemala city. Bottom: Children are enthralled by an Open the Book story.

Pastor Juan Fidel Perez, aged 75, has been leading the local Rock of Salvation church in Tierra Nueva for 45 years. Over cups of the traditional Guatemalan drink, Atol de Platano (a plantain and milk drink) he says, 'Most young people don't go to church so without Open the Book we would not be able to reach out and speak to these children.'

He explains that half the families in Guatemala live below the

poverty line and a quarter of the population are illiterate. School drop-out rates are very high. He says the Open the Book volunteers are respected in the community. 'Pupils speak to them outside school and they provide vital support to families in need,' he says.

One of the volunteers, Adeley, joins us. 'When the children at the schools have sadness and difficulties in their life, now they can speak to God,' she says.



Scan here to view our prison Bible work appeal or visit biblesociety.org.uk/prisons-wia

Bible behind bars

An extraordinary story of faith is emerging from jails in England and Wales. More and more prisoners are meeting Jesus in the Bible. Your support is making it happen.

WORDS BY CLAIRE SMITH

In HMP Stocken, a category C prison, there's a loud knock at the chaplaincy door. A large man in a prison-issue grey jumper pokes his head into the room.

'I've tried drugs, and they've not worked. I've tried sex, and it wasn't fulfilling. I've had a good go at alcohol,' he says. 'What do you have to offer me?'

Chaplain Revd Tim Wright smiles. He's been the prison chaplain here for eight years and has had countless similar encounters. 'Come in and let's talk,' says Tim.

Within weeks, the prisoner committed his life to Jesus, became a regular at Bible studies, and was planning

his release with a Christian mentoring scheme.

That's just one of the remarkable stories coming out of the 80 prisons we work with across England and Wales. Prisoners are turning to Jesus in huge numbers – and your support is fuelling faith.

Growing numbers

There are more than 85,000 prisoners in England and Wales, and the prison population is increasing. Prisoners are getting older (17 per cent are over 50), the vast majority are men (some 96 per cent), and sentences are longer (more than half of sentences are now at least four years)¹.

Ever since our founding, Bible Society has supported prison ministry. But in recent years, you've not only provided Bibles, you've also helped prisoners understand God's word through *The Bible Course*, a small group resource which explores the big story of Scripture.

A bespoke series of Gospel booklets for prisoners is in production too. Your support has already helped to print *Matthew: A Message of Mercy* and *Luke/Acts: A Message of Rescue*. Booklets on Mark and John should be completed this year, with each Gospel accompanied by reflections written by prison chaplains.

You're providing Bibles for prisoners, so they can read God's word in their cells. Photo credit: United Bible Societies

“

Outside prison, you don't get people banging on your door desperate for God. But you do here.”

REVD TIM WRIGHT, HMP STOCKEN CHAPLAIN

Life-changing impact

All this means the Bible is powerfully touching the lives of prisoners. Tim describes a typical session of *The Bible Course* at HMP Stocken ...

'About 25 men come along, and we break into smaller groups for discussion. The men don't talk about academic ideas, they speak from the heart. They want my humanity to touch theirs,' said Tim. 'There's really nothing else like *The Bible Course*.'

Back when Tim first arrived at HMP Stocken, which is in the county of Rutland in the East Midlands, a handful of men would turn up to Sunday services. Now, more than 70 prisoners cram into the chapel each week. 'Men give their lives to Christ all the time,' said Tim. 'One prisoner recently brought about five other people to faith.'

So why is prison such fertile ground for the gospel? Tim is in no doubt. 'These men are not approaching Christianity as a hobby,' he said. 'They are desperate for change.'

He added, 'A third of prisoners have grown up in care, and many have never been loved. They seek relationship, and when they hear the Bible's story of salvation – of God's faithful hand on his people – that has a big effect.'

Amazing opportunity

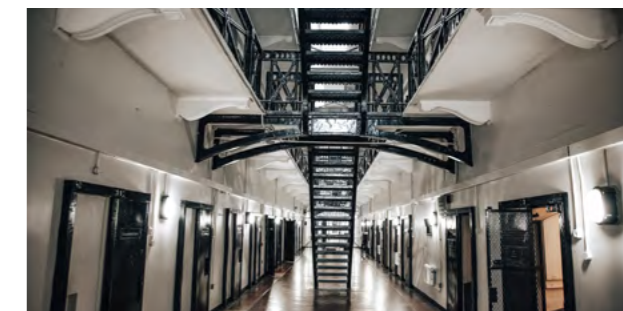
For you and other Bible Society supporters, the prison ministry presents an amazing opportunity to share God's word. In 2024, the aim is to distribute more Bibles, and reach more prisoners with *The Bible Course*.

Harry Fenner Crawley, Bible Society's Community Engagement Manager, says, 'We know that when we visit someone in prison, we visit Jesus himself (Matthew 25.36–40). This work is close to God's heart. Giving a Bible to a prisoner may not always be a quick fix, but it is life-changing.'



Claire Smith, Freelance writer

¹UK Prison Population Statistics, 8 Sept 2023. SN04334.pdf (parliament.uk)



Your kindness to prisoners



2,629 *Bible Course* manuals provided to prisoners in 2023



1,814 Scriptures given to prisoners in 120 prisons



80 prisons in active partnership with Bible Society



Aiming to provide 3,000+ Bibles in 2024



85,851 prisoners in England and Wales



£10 puts the Bible into the hands of a prisoner

“

There's really nothing else like *The Bible Course* for prisoners," says Revd Tim Wright.



Peacemakers in the Middle East

Three teams sharing Jesus in divided communities

WORDS BY JAMES HOWARD-SMITH

Months after the shocking attack on Israel and the devastating retaliation in Gaza, Bible Society's three teams go on serving their communities. With your support they've been meeting urgent needs since the fighting broke out, providing for people who have been injured, bereaved and made homeless. They're bringing Scripture to all communities, revealing the God of peace who brings a new way to live.

Nashat reaches out to a group of boys in the West Bank. Photos: Bible Society



Believing in the resurrection in Gaza

Nashat Filmon leads the Bible Society team working among Palestinians

Your generous donations have been providing the Bible to Palestinian people long before this latest outbreak of violence. Nashat's team have intensified their work in Gaza and the West Bank, experiencing the chaos as part of the Palestinian community but sharing a powerful message of healing. 'We've formed a crisis team,' Nashat said back in October. 'We are in daily contact with local and church leaders in the Gaza Strip and have maintained an open line of communication with

them. We're trying to provide as much help as possible.' The team gave out food and blankets to sheltering Christian families, and they've lived through the war with them. Nashat told us that members of his team had been injured in the bombing and lost their homes. The two Bible Society offices in Gaza were hit by airstrikes. 'As we go through the Via Dolorosa,' Nashat said, 'through the hardships, we look forward to the resurrection. We'll continue to

be a living testimony and stand with the body of Christ and the Church during this tough time.'

“We've formed a crisis team,” said Nashat. “We are in daily contact with local and church leaders in the Gaza Strip.”

A testimony of unity

Victor Kalisher leads Bible Society in Israel

Victor, a Jewish follower of Jesus, leads Bible Society in Israel, sharing Scripture throughout the country. He and his team, based in Jerusalem, serve Israel's Hebrew-speaking majority as well as various minority groups. Now, in this crisis, they're providing scriptures and support to people traumatised by the Hamas attack and the resulting war.

They aim to provide a testimony to the love of Christ. They're fostering unity among believers from different backgrounds, joining and leading gatherings for prayer and support. Victor works closely with Nashat and Dina, who lead the other



Bible Society teams. 'We have a testimony of unity in our ministry,' says Victor.

The team in Israel has been reaching in all directions with Scripture resources. They've given pocket Bibles to soldiers and produced a special edition

of the Psalms for Jews with passages about the Messiah highlighted. They also serve Israel's migrant workers, sharing God's word in a great range of translations.

Victor (right) leads Bible Society in Israel and he spends a large chunk of his time evangelising on the streets.



Dina, who leads the Arab-Israeli Bible Society, speaks to MPs at a Bible Society seminar on forgiveness which followed the National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast in 2023.

Feeling the pain of both peoples

Dina Katanacho leads the Arab-Israeli Bible Society

Dina is based in Nazareth and with your help she's sharing the Bible among her own Arab-Israeli community. 'We carry the burden of both peoples' pain,' she said. 'Our aim is to build a community of forgivers and peacemakers. We seek to combat darkness through the principles of the Kingdom of God.' Dina's team are sharing the spiritual tools with which Christians can bring healing, reconciliation, love and hope. They have a powerful digital outreach, encouraging people to seek God in the worst situations. And in schools, their already-effective anti-bullying programme has gained new significance as they steer the next generation away from violence.



James Howard-Smith, Digital Fundraiser



'I came broken to Bahrain, but now God has made me whole'

WORDS BY SIMON BARTZ

Migrant-worker housemaids prepare to be baptised in Bahrain. Photos: Bible Society in the Gulf

Kanti's husband walked out on her and their two young daughters in Sri Lanka. She had no means to provide for the children, so she packed up what little she had and headed to the Gulf with her daughters to look for work.

She was just one of countless desperately poor women who arrive in the Gulf from the Indian subcontinent in the hope of making a living as a housemaid. Many who arrive find themselves in a dreadful environment, working long hours for poor pay, and being housed in camps separated from regular society. The Guardian recently reported

that women were held captive and traded online in one Gulf state.

Angry with everyone

'When I arrived in Bahrain, I was broken on the inside and hardened in my heart due to what life had brought upon me. I used to be angry with everyone all the time,' says Kanti.

But then a Christian friend invited her to one of the churches in Bahrain that is supported by Bible Society in the Gulf.

'God spoke to my heart during that very first visit to the church. I could feel a strong call for repentance which I obeyed. I

came out from the church service that day as a completely new person on the inside,' Kanti says.

Jesus was my anchor

'God helped me to take care of my daughters, send them to school and see them become mothers themselves. I could not have done all that by myself. Jesus Christ was my beacon and anchor. He gave me the strength to persevere, survive and triumph. I came broken to Bahrain, but God made me whole.'

Ninety per cent of many church congregations in Bahrain are made up of housemaids, while the other ten per cent are mostly made up of other migrant workers



Kanti holds a Bible provided by Bible Society in the Gulf, through your support.

Last year, with your support, the Bible Society in the Gulf ...



trained **400** Christians in Bible storytelling because listening to stories, rather than reading, is a cultural tradition for many migrant workers



distributed **24,000** copies of the booklet *Who is Jesus Christ* and the storytelling manual *A Strong Foundation* in more than a dozen languages



held **40** Bible-focused healing sessions for **369** migrant workers suffering from trauma



provided **3,715** full Bibles or New Testaments in many languages

ooo and much more

“
Jesus was my beacon and anchor. He gave me the strength to persevere, survive and triumph.”

such as drivers, construction labourers and cleaners.

Kanti is now just like her friend all those years ago who led her to church for the first time. She testifies to others within the large Sri Lankan migrant-worker community in Bahrain, introducing them to the Scriptures where they can find hope through Jesus. And when they go to the church they are given Scriptures in their own language, which you help to provide by supporting Bible work in the Gulf.

'I am committed to sharing my story with fellow housemaids because I want them to see the light and find the peace that only Jesus Christ can give,' she says.

Thank you for free Bibles

'I would like to thank the Bible Society supporters who have provided free Bibles in our own language. These Bibles are truly changing lives.'

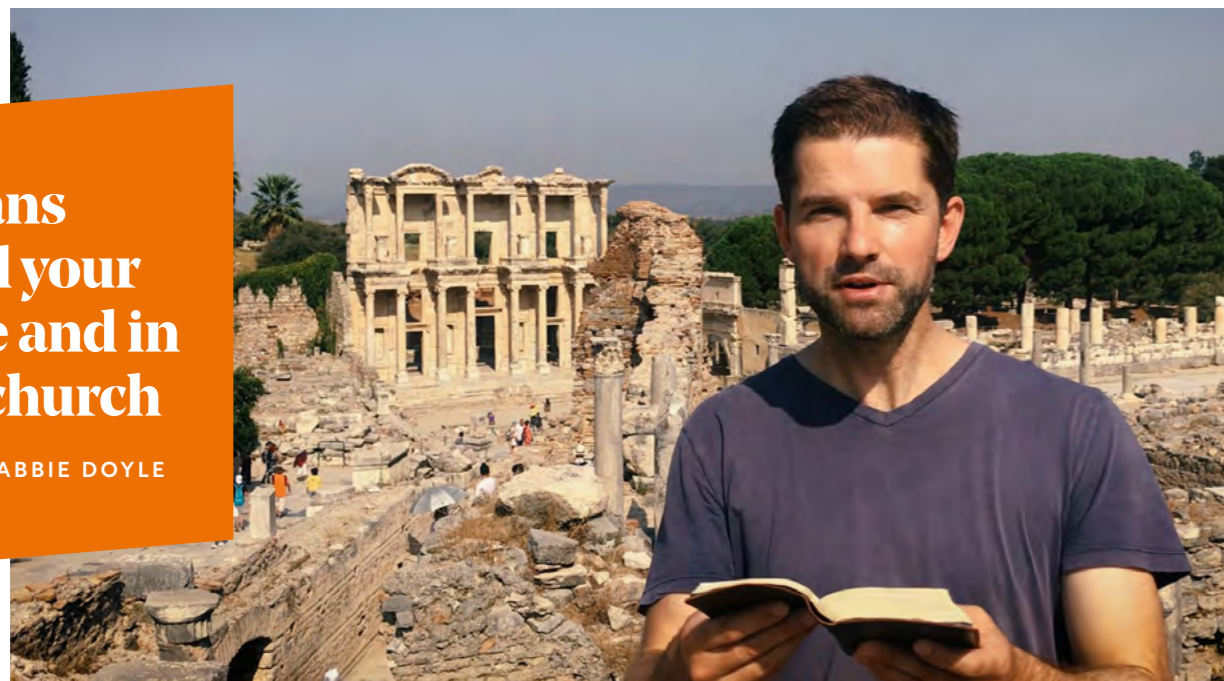
'We need peace and assurance of a better life – better than the one we are leading now. It is my prayer that many more people like me will come to know that peace and joy in Christ. God is good. All we have to do is believe. He is faithful.'



Simon Bartz,
Word in Action Editor

Romans round your house and in your church

WORDS BY ABBIE DOYLE



Andrew Ollerton takes you to Rome to unpack Paul's message in *The Romans Course*. Photos: Bible Society

We introduced *The Romans Course* to you in last summer's edition of *Word in Action* in an interview with its creator, Andrew Ollerton.

Here we delve deeper into the course to see what some of you think of this long-awaited follow-up to *The Bible Course*.

We visited a church in Swindon and heard from a house group in Bristol about how they are getting on with *The Romans Course*.

With video teaching set against the stunning backdrop of Rome and a helpful discussion guide for participants, this ten-session course will take your group on a journey to explore the most influential letter ever written.

The house group (in Keynsham, Bristol)

'*The Romans Course* is interesting, stimulating and challenging. We find difficult issues put across clearly and Andrew Ollerton's use of simple examples is very helpful. I thoroughly recommend this course,' said Penny Garrett, who wrote in to tell us about her house group's experience of using the course (also see Penny's 'One verse' on Page 15).

A group of ten meet, ranging in age from late 50s to Penny, who is the eldest at 80.

Leadership of the sessions has been shared within the group.

Graham Shaw, one of the group, said, 'I found the course particularly helpful in helping me to appreciate the link between Paul's theological outlook (chapters 1-11), and his down-to-earth practical guidance for living the Christian life (chapters 12-16).



'I found the emphasis on the assurance of God's ongoing and unconditional love despite my continued failings wonderfully helpful. If one objective of this course has been to increase the confidence of Christians in our faith, then for me it has succeeded.

'The presentation and production standards of *The Romans Course* are the best I have ever come across for a Bible study series. Setting the scene for the book in its historical context (including presenting

the course from Rome itself) enabled me to understand so much more clearly the issues and pressures which early Christians in Rome faced.

After the ninth session, Penny said, 'Everyone is feeling very positive and we will feel sad when we come to the end! I hope another book is done in the future.'



Abbie Doyle, Bible Society

The church group (Discovery Church Central, Swindon)

Pastor Genti Mullaliu said doing the course has had a positive impact on the church. 'We did a quiz on their knowledge of Romans before we started the course, and the results weren't great. But now, people are feeling more confident in their Bible knowledge because they are learning,' said Genti (pictured in the green top).



Find out more about *The Romans Course* at biblesociety.org.uk/WiA-Romans or scan the QR code



Isaac Mullaliu, Course Leader

How is your church using *The Romans Course*?

Each small group is running it and Romans is being preached on Sundays too.

Has the course had any surprising effects on the church?

Something like *The Romans Course* gets the younger members of the group thinking more than you'd expect. They really take it in and bring it to other conversations.



Myles Asota, Participant

How has the course given you a deeper understanding of the themes in Romans?

One of those themes is sin. Other places in the Bible connect sin and shame and inequity. But Romans tells us we don't need to identify with our sins. It's the difference between guilt and shame. Guilt is 'I've done something wrong' but shame is 'I am wrong' and Romans shows us that God doesn't want us to be ashamed. Just know when we have done something wrong.

Especially Romans 7:15 where Paul says, 'What I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do' (NIV) and it teaches us that just knowing when you have done something wrong is a step in the right direction.

Was there anything you specifically wanted to get out of the course?

Yes, scriptural enlightenment and empowerment. It has given me confidence in sharing and talking about this book but also the Bible in general.

Your letters and comments



The magazine is very attractively presented with a good balance of text and illustrations. An overload of text can be off-putting for those of us who receive a lot of charity mailing and have to skim-read but your magazine gets it right. I found the article '100-year dream' very inspiring and would like to think my small donation might have brought such a smile to a Bible recipient!

Rosemary, Holywood, County Down

Simon: You're not only bringing a smile to people's faces, you're introducing people to Jesus, whether they be ethnic minorities in the mountains of China ('100-year dream' from the last issue, and photo below) or the children in Guatemala in this issue. You're in the business of transforming lives, Rosemary.



I was baptised as a baby and was a nominal Christian until I reached my 30s. I was then invited to join a Bible study group and through this I was introduced to Jesus Christ. God's word is powerful and I want to enable everyone to read Scripture and come to faith.

Mr Smith, Benfleet, Essex

Simon: That's it Mr Smith. We don't want to give people Bibles for their bookshelves. We want those Bibles on their bedside tables. Engagement with the Scriptures brings people to Jesus.

I enjoy keeping up with all your amazing work. May God bless all that you do, now and in the future. I have followed your work in China since meeting Gladys Aylward when a teenager in the 1950s and am still a member of an Open the Book team.

Vivien, Maldon

Thanks for the spiritually and materially nourishing range of articles. They all give me hope and joy. As a home cook I take practical inspiration from the Scripture in the Kitchen page, which gave me a tasty perspective to the story of a hospitable biblical event.

Martin, Chichester

Simon: My deepest apologies, Martin, in that I couldn't find space for Scripture in the Kitchen in this edition. But please people, send me recipes with a biblical context!

I am pleased to read that many nations are receiving the Bible in their own language. Many years ago, I smuggled Bibles into China. I am now 80 years of age and still working for the Lord.

Sylvia, Norwich

All you do is a blessing. May God encourage you and continue to fulfil his will so that many souls will be saved and come to know Jesus and his loving care and salvation. May heaven be populated and hell depleted.

Rosemary, Ashford, Kent

Simon: Amen.

Email us your thoughts at WIA@biblesociety.org.uk

We may publish your comment together with your first name and your town, city or county. If you do not wish your comment to be published then indicate this by writing 'not for publication'.

We reserve the right to edit letters for style and length. The views expressed do not necessarily represent those of Bible Society.

One verse



Penny Garrett

Bible Society supporter

Penny is doing *The Romans Course* with her house group (see pages 12-13). We stretched her 'One verse' into two!

For I am certain that nothing can separate us from his love: neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers,

neither the present nor the future, neither the world above nor the world below – there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8.38-39, GNB)

My dad was a priest and my own journey has been very much centred on a loving relationship with God. As a trained therapist (from a nursing background) my strength in that work and in my Christian journey has been from a 'feeling' perspective rather than a 'thinking' one. So, some of the book of Romans was difficult, partly from a language point

of view (I have mild dyslexia). However, certain verses are my favourite, especially Romans 8.38-39.

My late husband and I worked as mission partners in Nigeria with Church Mission Society for five years in the early 1970s. Despite ups and downs such as when my husband died soon after retiring as a GP, I felt very powerfully God's love and assurance. I recall thinking that any of my family or friends can die but God will always be with me.

As an 80 year old, I let the younger ones deal with the technology (with *The Romans Course*) but I do lead at other times!

Bible people



Sarah Hindley

Trusts Manager

I grew up in a Christian family, but stumbled spiritually at university. After a difficult time during the pandemic, culminating in a mental health crisis, I knew that I needed to turn back to the Lord.

I've always worked in the charity sector and felt called to work for a Christian charity. I joined Bible Society as maternity leave cover but they kept me on! My role is Trusts Manager, which involves writing funding applications, reporting the impact of funding

and organising events to help trusts and foundations understand what we do.

I love my role in communicating to others how the Bible transforms lives. It's a privilege to be able to support partnerships between trusts and foundations and Bible Society, which help advance the Kingdom. It is not always easy – more organisations are competing for funding in our broken world. But my role has helped me to trust God and appreciate the incomparable value of the Bible, especially in a world where other treasures are so often sought. It is the greatest treasure there is.

If you're involved with a charitable trust or foundation, I would love to hear from you. Please do contact me on 07385 006 208 or sarah.hindley@biblesociety.org.uk

Trusts

A huge thank you to all of our funders who have generously granted funds towards a variety of projects.

In October 2023, one funder gave a grant of £60,000 to support Open the Book in England and Wales. And this is just one example of the incredible ways trusts and foundations can support the work of Bible Society and make this a world where everyone can experience Scripture and its power to change life for the better.

If you're a trustee of a charitable trust or foundation, or you know someone who is, our Trusts Manager would love to speak with you about how we can work together to achieve your charitable aims. For more information, contact Sarah Hindley on 07385 006 208 or email sarah.hindley@biblesociety.org.uk

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS THAT JESUS IS ALIVE IN 2024!

This Easter, in partnership with Hope Together, there are a host of easy-to-use resources to help you explore and share the good news of the resurrection with children, families, your church and community.

ALIVE



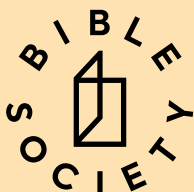
The Awesome Easter Surprise!

With a clear gospel message and colourful illustrations, *The Awesome Easter Surprise* is the perfect gift for children in your family, church, schools and community. Available to buy for £3 each, with great bulk buy discount pricing.



The Lent Encounter

To sign-up for The Lent Encounter go to biblesociety.org.uk/lent2024



Bible Society, Stonehill Green
Westlea, Swindon SN5 7DG
biblesociety.org.uk
Registered charity 232759



Check out all of our Easter resources, including a children's booklet, activities, videos and so much more at biblesociety.org.uk/easter or scan the QR code.