



SOWING CIRCLE

A PUBLICATION OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF INDIA

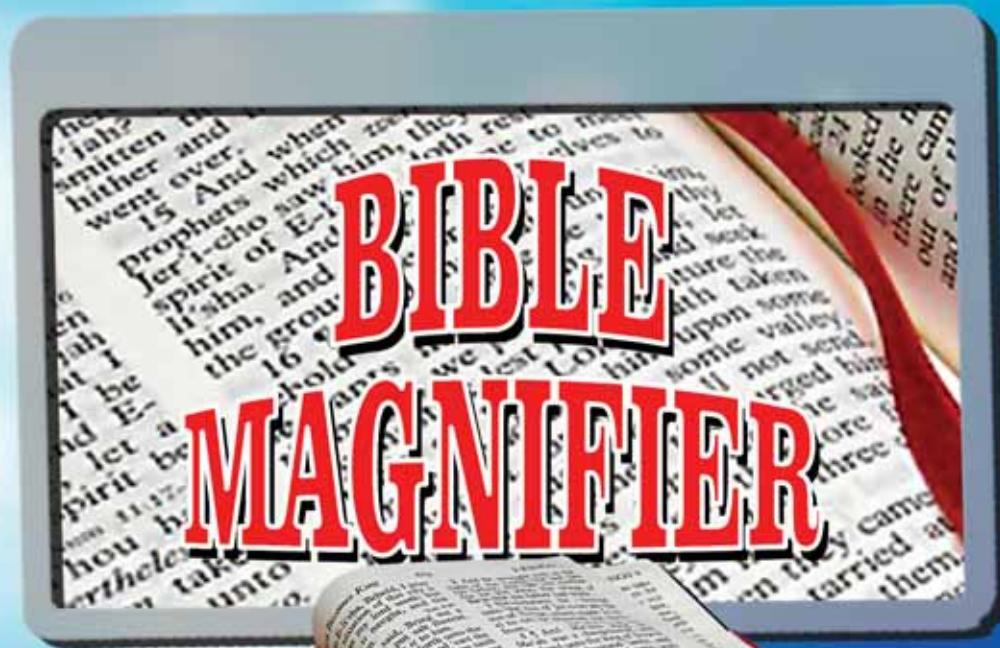
Volume 29 No. 2 (May-August 2013)



TRUE AND AUTHENTIC
PRAYER

2013.....
UBS ROUNDTABLE EXCHANGE





**₹60
Each**

**For easy
Bible reading
without straining your eyes**

For Your Copies & Trade Enquiries Please Contact:



**THE BIBLE SOCIETY
OF INDIA**

206, M.G. Road,
Bangalore-560 001 INDIA
Email: bsico@vsnl.com,
biblemarketing5@gmail.com
Phone: +91-80-41124714 or 715

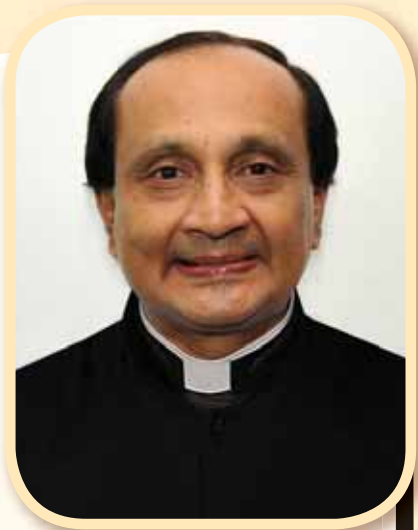


THE BOOK ROOM
(A UNIT OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY
OF INDIA)

#2, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560 001 INDIA
Email: bsico@vsnl.com
Phone: +91-80-22223813-14, 41325952

TRUE AND AUTHENTIC PRAYER

It is appropriate that the Editorial Board of the 'Sowing Circle' has chosen the theme of "Prayer" for this issue. Prayer has become very much a part of our lives that prayer often becomes a routine that we follow day by day. Hence we often lose sight of the true meaning and theology of Prayer.



"Prayer" is intrinsic to every religion. Muslims observe their times of prayer, irrespective of where they are. Hindus and people of other faith communities also do give a lot of importance to prayer. Judaism also had a high ideal of prayer as follows:

- a. The Rabbis said, "Great is prayer and is greater than all good works".
- b. There was the saying "He who prays within his house surrounds it with a wall that is stronger than iron".
- c. The only regret of the Rabbis was that it was not possible to pray all the day long.
- d. Every Jew was demanded to recite *Shemoneh Esreh*, which means The Eighteen. It consisted of 18 prayers, to be recited 3 times a day – 9.00 a. m, 12 noon and 3.00 p. m.
- e. For every occasion, the Jewish liturgy had prayers – before and after each meal, prayers in connection with light, fire, lightening and on seeing the New moon. The tendency was to repeat the right prayer at the right time. So there was the danger of slipping into formalism.
- f. There was also a tendency to connect prayer with certain places, especially the temple or the synagogue. Some Rabbis even said that prayer was efficacious only if it was offered in the temple or in the synagogue. Here, there was the danger that a man might come to God as being confined to holy places.
- g. There was also the tendency to pray long prayers – an idea that if people batter long enough at God's door, God will answer.
- h. There was also the fact that the Jews prayed to be seen by people. Every Jew prayed standing, with hands stretched out, palms upward and with head bowed. Wherever he was, he prayed to be seen at a street corner or in a market place.

It is with this background that Jesus taught his disciples a 'Prayer' that could be a model of how to pray, which is known as 'The Lord's Prayer'. Jesus was disgusted by the rigid formalism and Server-centeredness reflected in the Jewish prayer.

The Lord's Prayer – A True and Authentic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer occurs in two forms, one in Matthew 6:9-13; the other in Luke 11:2-4. The two versions of the Lord's Prayer occur in very different contexts. In Matthew, the prayer occurs in the Sermon on the Mount. In Luke, on the other hand, the prayer is introduced as a response to the disciples' request, "Lord, teach us to pray". It is possible that Jesus would have taught the prayer in two different contexts and to two different groups of people. Whether the version in Matthew or in Luke is original is a question of dispute. Because of the brevity of the account in Luke, some say this is earlier. But in terms of the context, there are scholars who take the account in Matthew as original.

The Biblical Scholars opine that the Lord's Prayer could have been used in two different contexts to meet the needs of two different groups. In Matthew, it speaks to those who are in danger of meaningless repetition of formulas. In Luke, it speaks to Gentile Christians who need initial instruction in prayer.

The Lord's Prayer has the following content:

(a) Address (b) 'Thou' Petitions (c) 'We' Petitions (d) Doxology

From the contents as listed above, we can derive the theology of True and Authentic Prayer.

First of all, a true and authentic prayer is to be prayed only by believers who can call God their Father: Only a person who is sure of this filial relationship can pray this prayer. In other words, 'Prayer' is not a mere babbling of meaningless words, which are repeated again and again. Rather, 'Prayer' is a relationship between God and the one who prays. The realization that I am praying to my "father" is highly significant - a father who knows me, a father who cares for me, a father who is able to meet all my needs. It is this connection that makes 'Prayer' true and authentic. I am not praying to a distant entity, but to the One who is with me and near me.

Secondly, a true and authentic prayer should have a missionary focus: This becomes clear from the "Thou Petitions" in the Lord's Prayer as follows: "Hallowed be your name". Acknowledging the actuality and the Holiness of God is a pre-requisite for a true and authentic Prayer.

"Your Kingdom come". Praying that God's Kingdom or Reign would be established on earth – God's Kingdom of peace and justice is yet another characteristic of true and authentic Prayer.

“Your will be done”. Praying that God’s will be done on earth; that the revealed commands of God will be lived out by people as Christ has carried out the will of the Father is yet another characteristic of true and authentic Prayer.

Thirdly, a true and authentic prayer should be corporate in nature: The very beginning of the Lord’s Prayer is corporate in nature. The Lord’s Prayer begins with the address “Our Father”. Further, the “We Petitions” in the Lord’s Prayer make this abundantly clear:

“Give us this day our daily bread” expresses a concern for the hungry and the needy. The petition also speaks about the corporate daily dependence on God for sustenance.

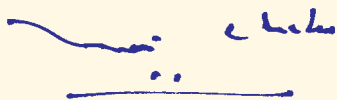
“Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us” expresses a desire to build up a situation where enemies are turned to friends through an act of forgiveness.

“Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil” projects an emphasis on personal relationships. A concern not to do anything evil which affects our relationship with others is emphasized.

Fourthly, a true and authentic prayer is God Centered: The Lord’s Prayer begins and ends with the thought on God – ‘God’ as “Father” in the beginning and the thought on the absolute power and majesty of God at the end.

Conclusion

The theme of the forthcoming 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches to be held at Busan, Republic of Korea from October 30 to November 8, 2013 is a Prayer, “God of Life: Lead us to Justice and Peace”. The theme in the form of a prayer is an affirmation that God is the God of Life ; that life in all its fullness for all is possible only when there is peace with justice and that the God of Life is with us in our struggles, working with us for a just and peaceful world. Our prayers should not be a mere repetition of words and phrases. Rather, our prayers should be action oriented towards building up a new world order marked by God’s Peace and Justice. This is, indeed, the essence of the prayer that our Lord taught His first band of disciples and all of us. And, this indeed, is the gist of the ‘True and Authentic Prayer’.



Rev Dr M Mani Chacko

General Secretary

The Bible Society of India



CONTENTS

**MESSAGE FROM
THE GENERAL SECRETARY**
True and Authentic Prayer03

EDITORIAL.....09

FOCUS
God's Open Invitation 10

PERSPECTIVE
A Biblical Theology of
Prayer12
Prayer in the Pentateuch..... 15

FEATURE
Pearl Jubilee UBS Day of
Prayer..... 18
Inauguration of the Archives..19
Project Round Table 2013.....22

NEWS AND VIEWS
National29
International.....39
Obituaries40

UP FRONT
Reports from Auxiliaries
& Sales Depot.....43

PRAYER CALENDAR
Prayer Network
Mobilisation.....69

FAMILY QUIZ TIME
Hymn Study.....71



SOWING CIRCLE

(A Publication of The Bible Society of India)
VOL. 29 No. 2 May-August 2013



Registered Office:

'LOGOS', #206, M.G. Road
Bangalore - 560 001 INDIA
Phone: +91-80-41124714, 41124715
Fax: +91-80-25584701
Email: bsigs@biblesociety.in, bsico@vsnl.com
Web: www.bsind.org

William Carey Centre:

#16, Hall Road, Richards Town,
Bangalore - 560 005
Phone: +91-80-25474918, 25494790
Fax: +91-80-25494788

The Executive Committee Members of
The Bible Society of India

President

The Revd. Dr. P.N.S. Chandra Bose

First Vice-President

The Rt. Revd. Dr. P.C. Singh

Second Vice-President

Mrs. Starla Luke

Third Vice-President

The Revd. Vanlalbela

Hon. Treasurer

The Revd. Premkumar Soans

General Secretary

The Revd. Dr. M. Mani Chacko

Members

Mrs. C. Lalduhawmi
Mr. Vinay Masih
Mr. S. Baldwin Raju
The Revd. L. Kham Kho Lun
Mrs. Anita Julius Christian
Mr. B.K. Alexander
The Revd. M.O. Oommen Jr.
The Most Revd. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma
The Rt. Revd. Ashoke Biswas
The Rt. Revd. Prakash Patole
The Rt. Revd. Pradeep Kumar Samantaroy
Mr. El Yanger Aier
The Rt. Revd. Dr. Nelson Lakra
The Revd. P. Hynniewta
Mrs. Ratna Sundar
Miss Roselin Kujur

Contact Information

GENERAL SECRETARY

THE REVD. DR. M. MANI CHACKO
PhD (London)
Telephone: 080-4151 1810
Email: mani.chacko@hotmail.com
gsbs@hotmail.com

DIRECTORS

Finance

MR. M. DAVID VERGIS
Telephone: 080-2549 4815
Email: bsifd@vsnl.com

Resource Mobilization & Church Relations

DR. ELIZABETH LEELAVATHI MANASSEH
Telephone: 080-4152 2118
Email: betty_1954@yahoo.com

Translations

THE REVD. DR. JONADOB NATHANIEL
D.Theol (SEAGST)
Telephone: 080-2549 4802
Email: jonadob@hotmail.com

Audio, Visual & Media

THE REVD. G.D.V. PRASAD
Telephone: 080 – 25471226
Email: varadeva@gmail.com

Marketing

DR. P.I. VARGHESE
Telephone: 080 – 4151 1811
Email: pivarghese52@gmail.com

Production

MR. E. ASHITH
Telephone: 080-2549 4801
Email: ashith_g@yahoo.com

Associate Director Translations And Translations Consultant

for North East India

DR. W. ALONG JAMIR

D.Th. (Serampore)
The Bible Society of India
Translations Centre, Arbuthnot Road,
Shillong – 793 003, Meghalaya
Telephone: 0364-2536939
Email: bsistc@dataone.in

AUXILIARY SECRETARIES

Elder C. Thangnghilhlova
M. G. Road, Aizawl 796 001
Telephone: 0389 – 2323210, Email: bsiaiz@sancharnet.in

The Revd. Dr. Rajan Dass
14, Thornhill Road, Allahabad 211 001
Telephone : 0532 - 2624107, email bsiall@sancharnet.in

The Revd. Samuel Raja Sekhar Bobbili
Plot No. 79 & 80, No. 6-2-228 & 229
Opp: St. Philomena High School, New Bhoiguda
Secunderabad – 500 003,
Telephone: 040 – 27534017, 27539042
Email: hyd2_bsiaid@sancharnet.in & samuelsbobbili@yahoo.co.in

The Revd. Dr. Z.K. Rochill
NH-39, Near New Dhansiri Bridge
PB. - 66, Dimapur 797 112
Telephone: 03862 –229087
Email : bible_si@dataone.in

The Revd. Dr. N.G. Parmar
Near Gujarat College, I.P. Mission Compound
Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad 380 006
Telephone: 079-2644 6807
Email gujbsi@eth.net, www.gujaratbsi.org

The Revd. Joel Patrick
Mission Press Compound, Napier Town, Jabalpur - 482 001
Telephone: 0761 – 2622255/2628512,
Email: bsimdp@sancharnet.in

Dr. Vasant W. Renick
No.2, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bangalore 560 001
Telephone : 080 – 22214557, Email: bsikar@bgl.vsnl.net.in

The Revd. Dr. Mathew Varkey
PhD (Mahatma Gandhi University) Th.D (North Carolina, USA)
Bible Society Junction
PB No. 114, Kottayam - 686 001
Telephone: 0481 – 2562103, Email: bibleker@sancharnet.in

Mr. Sajal Kumar Sarkar
23 Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kolkata - 700 087
Telephone: 033 – 22491898, Email: bsical@dataone.in

The Revd. Dr. Victor Gollapalli
Malhotra House, Opp. GPO, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001
Telephone : 022-22611707,
E-mail bsibom@bom8.vsnl.net.in

Mr. Richard G. Khan
10, Sansad Marg, New Delhi 110 001,
Telephone: 011-23362054, 23366822,
Email: bsi_delhi@vsnl.com, bsinwia@gmail.com

The Revd. Ashish Kumar Patro
Bible House, Payton Sahi, Cuttack 753 001
Telephone: 0671- 2419691, Email: bsiori@rediffmail.com

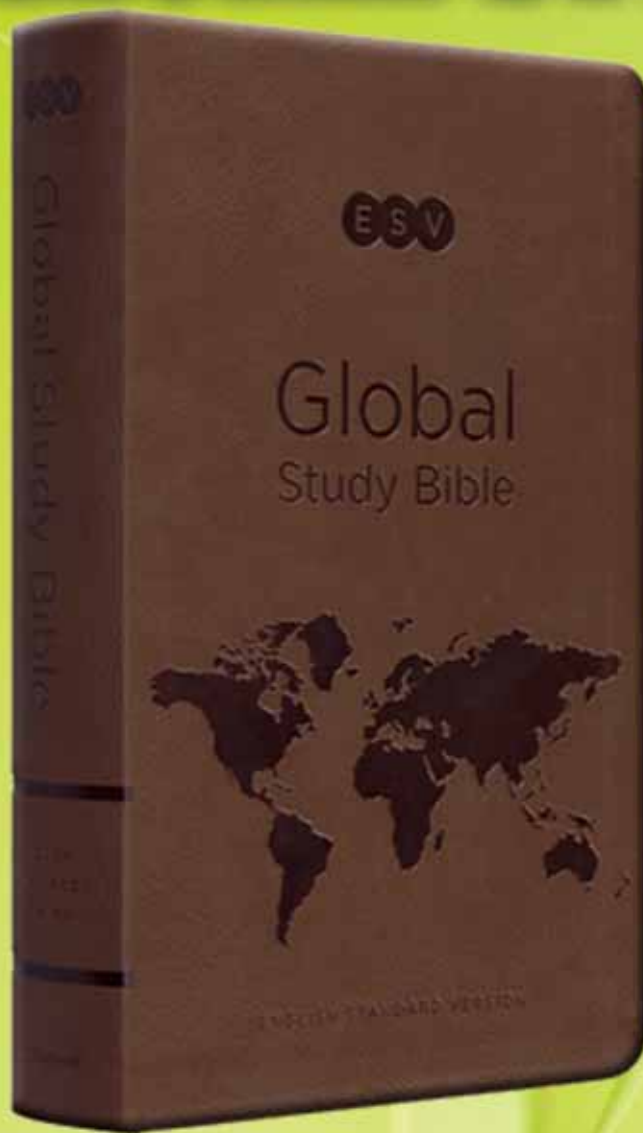
Mrs. Soma Bhatkar
Old Hazaribagh Road, Ranchi 834001
Telephone: 0651-6455849, Email: bsiranchi@gmail.com

The Revd. Phidolis Dkhar
Students' Field, Shillong 793 002
Telephone: 0364-2544051, Email: bsishg@dataone.in

The Revd. Moses Davadason
Auxiliary Secretary
PB No. 502, No. 65, Evening Bazaar Road
Park Town, Chennai 600 003
Telephone: 044-25353631
Email: bsitam@md4.vsnl.net.in / annamalin@vsnl.com

Mr. Sajal Kumar Sarkar (In-charge)
A Sales Depot Office of the BSI
No.210, 2nd Floor, Suryarao Complex
109, M.G. Road, Middle Point (Goalgar)
P.O. Box 200, HPO, Port Blair 744 101
Andaman & Nicobar Islands
Telephone: 03192-243272,
E-mail:biblesocietyani@yahoo.com

ESV (English Standard Version) **GLOBAL STUDY BIBLE**



**₹1250/-
ONLY**

**RATED AS THE
BEST STUDY
BIBLE EVER
PRODUCED**

For Your Copies & Trade Enquiries Please Contact:



THE BOOK ROOM

(A UNIT OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF INDIA)

#2, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560 001 INDIA

Email: bsibookroom@gmail.com Phone: +91-80-22223813-14, 41325952



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Grace and peace to you in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In this issue we are looking at prayer from various angles. Prayer continues to be the backbone of the Mission and Ministry of the Bible Society of India. Scripture Engagement continues to enhance our prayer life in order that we not only are hearers or readers of the Word of God, but also continue to be doers of the Word, with the transforming love of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

A true and authentic prayer is God-centered, as we see in the Lord's Prayer. It begins and ends with the thought on God. "God of Life; Lead us to Justice and Peace", is the theme for the 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches to be held in Busan, Republic of Korea, during October-November 2013.

God extends an open invitation to commune with Him. As sons and daughters, we can enter God's presence with thanksgiving and praise, gazing on Him. The Bible presents the God of prayer, the God who calls before we answer and answers before we call (Isaiah 65:24) and in the biblical history, prayer is not presented as a separate spiritual discipline, but prayer rises as people's answer to God's address. The Pentateuch Books come alive to us in further understanding the concept of prayer. For example, Joseph is perceived as someone who may not have prayed, with folded hands on his knees, but he practiced the presence of God in every situation, which is incredible.

The United Bible Societies celebrated the 30th Anniversary of UBS Day of Prayer. The Pearl Jubilee of the UBS Day of Prayer was celebrated at the Central Office, the Auxiliaries and the Sales Depot in Port Blair, during May 2013.

The United Bible Societies held the Project Round Table 2013 in Bangalore during this June, giving the Bible Society of India, the privilege to host it. We praise God for blessing the event immensely!

We are grateful to God for you and your involvement with the Mission and Ministry of the Bible Society of India. We thank you for your prayers and request you to continue to pray for every aspect of the work of the Bible Society of India.

Warmest regards,

In our Lord's service,

E. Leelavathi Manasseh

EDITORIAL BOARD OF SOWING CIRCLE

Chief Editor: Rev. Dr. M. Mani Chacko

Editor: Dr. Elizabeth Leelavathi Manasseh

Members: Rev. G.D.V. Prasad, Dr. P.I. Varghese, Mr. E. Ashith, Mr. Cyril D'Souza
Mrs. Mini George Suna and Mrs. Nirmala Gomez

Sowing Circle is an organ of the Bible Society of India. It is published for the friends and supporters of the BSI. Address inquiries to: The Bible Society of India, "LOGOS" # 206, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bangalore - 560 001. Be sure to notify us immediately of any change in your address. Send your comments about the magazine to the Editor. Opinions expressed in the articles do not necessarily carry the views of the BSI. General information on the work of the BSI published herein may be used without prior permission. However, articles which mention the author's name may be used only with the prior permission in writing, from the Editor. Acknowledgments and copies of the publications are appreciated. Donations for the Bible work may kindly be sent to the Bible Society of India, Central Office, Bangalore, or to the Auxiliary nearest to you.

GOD'S OPEN INVITATION TO COMMUNE WITH HIM

By Rev. Dr. Richard Howell



Prayer is not composing a convenient shopping list and giving God a call, expecting free home delivery. Prayer takes concrete form in the context of a loving relationship with God possible through Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. God takes the initiative in calling us to Himself and prayer is our response to God in faith when we hear Him. Prayer is not as much about answers, as it is about our relationship with God of holy love – at its best, an intimate conversation between a trusting child and a loving Father. Our gratitude for God's saving action in Jesus Christ (Romans 7:25; 1 Corinthians 15:57) is the starting point and context of all Christian prayer.

Share in Sonship

The intimacy of the Son's filial relation to the Father distinguished Jesus from all others. Similarly, believers too attain closeness with the Father by sharing in Jesus' son-ship. The Bible teaches:

"The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to son-ship. And by Him we cry, 'Abba, Father'" (Romans 8:16). The Spirit gives us a share in the son-ship of Jesus, making it possible to pray to the Father "in the name of Jesus," with the assurance of a hearing. Jesus promised: "And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father" (John 14:13). We must rejoice in the fact that our participation in Christ's son-ship creates a bond among all believers in the world-wide community of Christ.

Unceasing and Interceding

Christians are exhorted to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5: 17; cf. Ephesians: 6:18). When we do not know what to pray, the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs that cannot be uttered (Romans 8:26). Unceasing

prayer refers to an ongoing attitude of dependence on God in which the life of faith is to be lived. It is an attitude permeating individual activities of believers at all times. While praying, our love for neighbours is integrated into our relationship with God as we participate in His love for the world. Prayer is a safeguard against our practice of neighbour becoming ritualistic moral work.

Temporal Nature of our Situation

The encouragement to pray is linked to the temporal nature of our human situation before the consummation of God's Kingdom. This helps explain why the first three petitions (Matthew 6:9-13) Name, Kingdom, and Will precede the rest. Only with these conditions satisfied, can petitions follow for daily bread, forgiveness of debts, and protection against

temptation to apostasy. Within Christian prayer, human wishes, concerns, and requests are subordinate to God's goal for His creation and there is opportunity for integration of the two. Believers cling to God, in petitionary prayer, as they face the uncertainty of their future. Jesus reprimands anxiety, but encourages prayer.

Cooperation with God

God gives us, His creation, a share in establishing His kingdom in the world by encouraging them to pray. The kingdom does not come on this world like fate; with everything unalterably fixed from the start. Hence, believers are summoned to co-operate with God, on His way to the future of His kingdom, through our actions and prayers. We cannot bring in, the kingdom, based on our actions. Only God can do this and only His providence knows how our various acts can relate to this goal and be effective. Thus, in our awareness of the limits of human action, prayer is the highest form of our participation in bringing in the kingdom of God, and a stimulus and pointer for believers' action.

Paul Stimulated by Prayer

Listening to the feeble voices of poverty, injustice and cruelty challenged Paul and

his friends to combine prayer with action; to demonstrate courage and compassion. On a Sunday morning in Philippi, when Paul and his friends were going to a meeting place for prayer, a slave girl met them on the way. She had "a spirit by which she predicted the future" (Acts 16: 16) and was exploited by her owners, who made a lot of money on account of her fortune telling. Paul who believed in human dignity, equality, freedom and mutual respect, was pained at the condition of the girl. He prayed for her healing and deliverance and the slave girl came to feel, for the first time, unconditionally loved as a true daughter of God.

The consequences of doing good, as visible in the case of the deliverance of the girl, were violent. Paul and his companions were stripped,

"Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples,

"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field."

beaten and thrown in prison, yet they continued in prayer and singing hymns to God. Not moans but melody came from their mouth (Acts 16: 25). So should it from ours!

Following Jesus

Jesus revealed the Good News of His Kingdom by His words of proclamation, deeds of healing and a life of compassion. He grieved over the multitudes of people who felt helpless. As Matthew 9:35-38 records, "Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field."

We are not called to respond to the world's needs with resources limited to our own initiative and strength. Jesus calls us to pray, to ask for help from the God of holy love who commissioned us for our task.

*Rev. Dr. Richard Howell,
General Secretary of the
Evangelical Fellowship of India
and Asian Evangelical Alliance*

A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT



By Dr. Elizabeth Leelavathi Manasseh

The Bible is the Word of God

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God because of its divine origin. The Bible shows God's desire to establish a relationship with the people. The very first chapter of the Bible tells us that God created human beings in God's own image and likeness (Genesis 1:26-27). Even when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, God continued to pursue them. The very question that God asks in the Bible is "Where are you? (Genesis 3:9). This question shows what is central to God's heart – PEOPLE. No wonder King David asked God, "Why do you care about us, humans?" (Psalm 8:4). How amazing it is to think and believe that God, the Creator of the universe, actually chose to establish a relationship with

us – human persons: boys and girls, young men and women, adult men and women from all walks of life, irrespective of our background, socio-economic status and geographical areas!

The Bible is God's story of God's great work in bringing people whom God created, back to Himself, for a meaningful relationship, through our Saviour and Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ. God's Word tells us not of human persons seeking a lost God, but of God going after lost children, young people and adult men and women, so that those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, shall not perish but have everlasting life. We shall look at the following to understand how Scripture Engagement and Prayer go together as two sides of the same coin.

A Biblical Theology of Prayer

The Bible presents the God of prayer, the God who calls before we answer and answers before we call (Isaiah 65:24). In the biblical history, prayer is not presented as a separate spiritual discipline, but prayer rises as people's answer to God's address. We see in the Old Testament how God speaks to men and women; and how they speak to God – for example Adam, Eve, Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Moses and others. Prayer in the New Testament is addressed to the Father. In the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the record of Acts and in the Epistles, followers of Christ bow to the Father from whom the whole family in heaven and on earth is named (Ephesians 3:14). In addressing the Father we can respond to the full revelation of the Trinity – Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. The

Spirit who makes intercession for us guides our praying, for the Spirit witnesses to the Father and to the Son.

Prayer to the Father shows the consciousness of sonship (and daughter-ship) that crowns prayer in Christ. We look to the Lord Jesus Christ. We come to the Lord with our burden of sin and receive forgiveness and life. When the Lord receives us to Himself and unites us to Himself we are brought into a relation with God the Father. We are made children of God (John 1:12). Yes, children by the new birth. In Christ there is no longer male and female - we are sons in the Son. The prayer to the Father, breathes assurance as well as our total dependence. We realise that our relationship with God breathes assurance, our total dependence on God and the love of God is all our hope.

Scripture Engagement

The Bible is the inspired Word of God as Apostle Paul says in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, and therefore, it makes the Bible, the foundation for what we believe and how we live. We need to read it, study it and understand it, so that, everyone may be proficient and equipped for every good work.

Our blessed assurance is that God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ Jesus God

Good works are manifestations of what we know and believe. That is why the Scriptures are there to teach, correct, rebuke, and train us for right living. The Word of God is our guide to that which is right, pure, holy, and truthful. So that we might believe that which is true, not false, and in truth, accurately do that which is pleasing in the sight of God, for His glory, and for the welfare of people and God's entire creation.

has created us for a life of good deeds, which God has already prepared for us to do (Ephesians 2:10).

Good works are manifestations of what we know and believe. That is why the Scriptures are there to teach, correct, rebuke, and train us for right living. The Word of God is our guide to that which is right, pure, holy, and truthful. So that we might believe that which is true, not false, and in truth, accurately do that which is pleasing in the sight of God, for His glory, and for the welfare of people and God's entire creation.

As followers or disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, we try

to engage with the Scripture individually, as a family, as a church and as a community, in order to apply the insights, principles, lessons, that we learn for human relationships in everyday life. This helps us in solving problems, resolve issues, make choices and decisions. For example, in guiding our children to grow in the fear of God, in the choice of schools and colleges for their education, in selecting the career and even life partners. Human as we are, we are prone to make mistakes in making choices and decisions. Applying God's Word to daily life in our particular socio-cultural contexts is a big challenge as we need to struggle to make conscious efforts to obey God, which in turn helps us to be more God-reliant than self-reliant. Let us listen to the following heart-warming testimonies, to understand the importance of Scripture Engagement and Prayer.

Mrs. Vani Jeyaraj shares: "We are from South India. Our parents arranged our marriage based on caste system and dowry system. At that time we were nominal Christians and therefore, we went along with the traditions of our families. As the days went by, God blessed us with two children – a son and a daughter. Then we started attending a home Bible Study. We began to engage with the Word of

God, and pray through the Scriptures. God began to speak to us. God helped us to look at ourselves and we started praying, "Lord, change me". We prayed for inner healing and thorough cleansing, in the light of the daily Bible reading, and we continue to do that. We have been experiencing inner cleansing and healing. God began to speak to us about the practice of caste system and dowry system. It was a daily struggle for us but God's grace was sufficient to find a solution.

To cut the story short, my husband returned the dowry taken at the time of our marriage, to my brothers as my parents are not alive now. Later we met several couples who were also led by the Scriptures to do this. It is amazing how God's Word can speak to us and help us to make a difference in this world. Now our children are ready for marriage. Our son wants to marry a lovely believer from Dalit background. We have accepted it as from the Lord. We have created a family slogan now: 'No taking dowry and no giving dowry. No caste system, at any cost'".

Mr. Singh shares: "We live in North India. My wife and I are from two different cultures. We believe that the Holy Spirit has brought us and our families together.

Our parents have been engaged in reaching out to people of various faith communities with the Word of God, ushering them to the Lord Jesus Christ. Our daughter met a committed Christian from down South, in a Youth Camp. They had the privilege of getting acquainted with each other in the Youth Bible Study. They believe that God wants them to get married, but John's parents are not happy about this. They are lovely people, doing marvellous work for the Lord. The only reason for rejecting our daughter is that we are not from their community. But these two young people are persevering with love, in prayer, claiming God's promises. We are encouraging them to continue to trust the Lord to speak to their parents, as it is good to get parents' consent for the marriage. We do believe that God will make a way in His time.

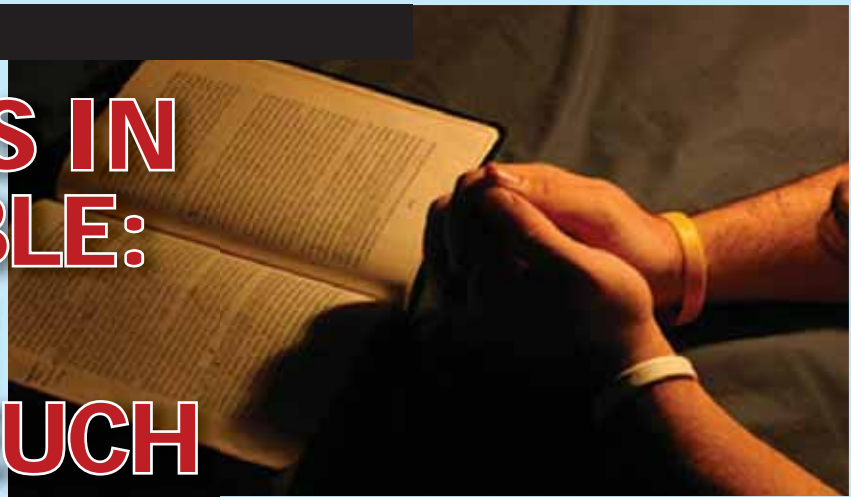
"We are from the slum. Two years ago we were notorious children. Our parents and teachers could not control us. Our neighbours hated us. Aunties and Uncles from the Bible Society of India came to us, loved us and told us many stories from the Bible. They showed us from the Bible how to become good children and do good deeds.

The Bible Society of India has been promoting Scripture Engagement among the marginalised people. A few School Dropouts in Bangalore testify: "We are from the slum. Two years ago we were notorious children. Our parents and teachers could not control us. Our neighbours hated us. Aunties and Uncles from the Bible Society of India came to us, loved us and told us many stories from the Bible. They showed us from the Bible how to become good children and do good deeds. Today, people like us so much. We were not good in studies but today we are very good in studies. We are learning from the Bible and praying daily. We make mistakes but we know that when we say 'Sorry to Lord Jesus and to others', we are forgiven.

Thus, Scripture Engagement refers to a fuller human experience that recognizes that we are not only hearers or readers of the Word of God but also applicators (doers) of God's Word in everyday life, fully realising that as human persons, we sin against God and one another, but God's forgiveness is available to all, and therefore we can enhance a meaningful life for all, fully leaning on God.

*(Dr. E.L. Manasseh,
Director,
Resource Mobilisation and
Church Relations Department,
The BSI)*

PRAYERS IN THE BIBLE: THE PENTATEUCH



By Prof. Balasingh

In this article we shall look at the concept of Prayer in the Pentateuch – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Remember these books are also known as the Books of Law and the Books of Moses.

Prayer is an outpouring of the heart to God. It is more than the recital of well known phrases. Prayer is an exposition of sorrow, pain, persecution and peril believing that God, our father is able to redeem us out of all troubles. Knowing a little about prayer reveals a lot about its power. This is because the time of worship is indeed a time of spiritual uplift. The more we pray, the more is the treasure of spiritual enlightenment and edification showered on us. Robert Burns says that prayer is correspondence with the Triune God – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Prayer knows no language; but a cry. Hagar offered a heart-felt cry in the hour of her distress and loneliness in the

wilderness. The Lord heard her affliction and Hagar said, “Thou God seest me” (Genesis 16:13). The most difficult journey in the wilderness had blessed climax, when God was the goal. Hagar was comforted by God’s promise (Genesis 16:10,11).

The Holy Bible gives about 650 definite prayers out of which only 450 have recorded definite answers as in the case of Hagar. The remaining 200 prayers are either unanswered or unheard.

Origin of Prayer: “After Enosh was born to Seth, then began men to call upon the name of the Lord” (Genesis 4:26). With the coming of Enosh, men were conscious of their weakness and sought refuge in God. Enoch and Noah walked with God (Genesis 6:9). The word “walking” implies progress; and “walking with God” implies “Spiritual Progress,” which is dependent upon unbroken Communion with God. This, in fact, is

the origin of prayer, which is communion with God, leading to spiritual progress. The tempo of spiritual progress and prayer increased steadily as, “Abram built an altar unto the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord” (Genesis 12:7). Worship, communion and promise are all bound up in God’s call to Abraham and in Abraham’s calling upon the name of the Lord. In the covenant given to Abraham the underlying thought is that, “true family life depends upon family recognition of God”.

In this age of grace, “our access to God is made possible by Him who is our altar and the offering thereon” (Hebrews 10:19, 13:10). In the earlier books of the Bible God speaks more to man than man does to God. But we do too much of talking in our prayer sessions. We should develop the art of listening more to God’s voice. How impressive is the silent obedience of Abraham when

God commanded him to offer his son as a sacrifice!

Abraham's Prayers

Abraham's intercessory prayer for Ishmael: This is the first recorded prayer found in Genesis 17:18, "And Abraham said unto God that Ishmael might live before Thee". The humble prayer of the Patriarch received prompt reply from our gracious and prayer – hearing God, "As for Ishmael I have heard thee. Behold I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and will multiply him exceedingly [Genesis 17:20]. Abraham's prayer guides parents to believe that God hears and answers the prayers for our children.

Abraham's prayer for Sodom: Abraham drew nearer to God and asked, "Will Thou destroy the righteous along with the wicked? – if there be 50 righteous – if there be 45 righteous – if there 40 or 30 or 20 or 10 righteous?" The Lord replied, "I will not destroy Sodom even for ten's sake" (Genesis 18: 23 -33). Abraham made this interesting prayer with deep humility and lowliness of spirit carrying in his heart the sins and sorrows of Sodom. This prayer reveals that humility is the first essential of efficacious prayer. This does not mean that all heart cries with humility for cities and sinners are answered. About Judah God said to Jeremiah "Pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer

Joseph was the man without prayer. The Bible shows that there is complete absence of prayer in the life of Joseph. We observe that for long Joseph tread the path of sorrow, he was afflicted, tormented, persecuted, imprisoned and yet it is never said that Joseph prayed.

for them nor make intercession to me, for I will not hear thee" (Jeremiah 7:16).

Joseph was a man without Prayer

Joseph was the man without prayer. The Bible shows that there is complete absence of prayer in the life of Joseph. We observe that for long Joseph walked the path of sorrow, he was afflicted, tormented, persecuted, imprisoned and yet it is never said that Joseph prayed. The whole tenor of his life suggests an overwhelming sense of the presence of God. The controlling power that Joseph exercised in his memorable answer to the Portiphar's wife : "Can I do this great wickedness and sin against God" (Genesis 39:9) reveals that Joseph was a God conscious man and must have lived in full harmony with God. Even though there is

no recorded evidence in the Bible about Joseph's prayer, he must have practiced the presence of God without, literally kneeling down and praying.

Prayer as a two-way channel

In Exodus we read the key phrase," Moses said unto God and God said unto Moses" (Exodus 3: 13, 14). In prayer, we unburden our hearts to God and God speaks to us through His word. True prayer is two way channels - we speak to God and God speaks to us. When Moses sought about the responsibility of bringing the people out of Egypt, his prayer reads like a dialogue full of life in which one speaker argues with the other with questions and answers. Another example of God speaking to man and man speaking to God is found in the book of Jonah.

Book of the Bible without Prayer

Leviticus is the book dealing with the way of approach to God. But strangely, there is no mention about prayer. The absence of prayer in Leviticus is noticeable in the consecration of the priests (Leviticus 8:12) and with other offerings. The service of peculiar solemnity (Leviticus 9:22) and the imposing of ceremonies associated with the great Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:12) cannot be

taken as prayer. Yet many commentators of the Bible are of the view that prayer and praise are part and parcel of all the services of the tabernacle.

Three-fold priestly Blessing

The Book of Numbers reveals that prayer is our vital breath and the weapon-less hand of prayer is more powerful than armies. It also contains the sins, sorrows and grumblings of the Israelites. The three-fold priestly blessing of Moses upon the people is unique, stately and heartfelt. "The Lord bless thee and keep thee; the Lord make his face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee; the Lord lift up his countenance upon thee and give thee peace" (Numbers 6:24-26).

We can easily see the Holy Trinity in the threefold benediction of Moses. The same is true of the three-fold invocation of Jacob (Genesis 48:15,16) and the three-fold invocation of Daniel as in Daniel 9:19, "O Lord, hear; O

"The Lord bless thee and keep thee; the Lord make his face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee; the Lord lift up his countenance upon thee and give thee peace"

(Numbers 6:24-26).

Lord forgive; O Lord hearken and do". The divine three-fold character of God is revealed as the "God of the spirits of all flesh" (Numbers 27:16), the father of spirits (Hebrews 12:9) and the father of the Lights (James 1:17).

In Deuteronomy, there is repetition of the Laws and guidelines and emphasis is given to faith in God and obedience to God and consequent blessings from Him. Moses' prayer for the privileged task of crossing the river Jordan is recorded in Deuteronomy 3:23-25. This request was not granted because Moses lost his temper at the rock and smites it, while he should have only spoken to it. Prayers of thanksgiving include gratitude for material things like land and food (Deuteronomy 8:10, 26:4]. The benediction of heaven was sought only after tithes were reserved for the widows and fatherless (Deuteronomy 26:12-15). Here lies a lesson for our hearts to help the poor and the downtrodden. Blessings for obedience to God and curses for disobedience to God are listed very clearly in the Book of Deuteronomy, Chapter 28.

Thus, we see in the Pentateuch that Time of Prayer is a time of spiritual uplift; God hears and answers the prayers of the parents for their children; Humility is the first essential of efficacious prayer; Prayer is a two way channel by which we speak

Thus, we see in the Pentateuch that Time of Prayer is a time of spiritual uplift; God hears and answers the prayers of the parents for their children; Humility is the first essential of efficacious prayer; Prayer is a two way channel by which we speak to God and God speaks to us; The weapon-less hand of prayer is more powerful than a band of armies and The Three-fold priestly blessing reveals the divine threefold character of God.

to God and God speaks to us; The weapon-less hand of prayer is more powerful than a band of armies and The Three-fold priestly blessing reveals the divine threefold character of God.

"God answered my prayer – not in the way I sought, Not in the way that I thought, He ought,

But in His own good way that I could see,

He answered in the manner best for me."

(Prof. Balasingh is a member of the National Committee on Resource Mobilisation and Church Relations Department)

UBS DAY OF PRAYER: PEARL JUBILEE CELEBRATION



The United Bible Societies is a fellowship of Bible Societies. It is made up of 146 Bible Societies operating in over 200 countries and territories. Together, they are the biggest translator, publisher and distributor of the Bible in the world. They are also active in areas such as literacy training, HIV and AIDS prevention and disaster relief. Bible Societies work with all Christian Churches and many international non-governmental organisations.

On May 9, 1983 when 13 United Bible Societies met together in England, they initiated the UBS Day of Prayer on May 9th because the United Bible Societies was formed as a fellowship on May 9, 1946.

The purpose of UBS Day of Prayer is to look at what God has been doing in the Bible Societies around the world with an attitude of gratitude, and to pray for

various concerns, together, from the rising of the sun to the going down.

The Bible Society of India celebrated the Pearl Jubilee of the UBS Day of Prayer meaningfully at the Central Office, Shillong Translations Centre, Auxiliaries and the Sales Depot in Port Blair during the month of May 2013, under the guidance of Resource Mobilisation and Church Relations Department of the Bible Society of India. A brief report about the Celebration at the Central Office is featured here.

The 30th anniversary of the UBS Day of Prayer, was celebrated at the Central Office, LOGOS on Friday, the 10th May 2013, in honour of the visit of the President of the Bible Society of India, Rev Dr P.N.S. Chandra Bose, around the theme "The One who has called you is faithful and He will do it" (1 Thessalonians 5:24).

The celebration began with a call to worship led by the Religious Affairs Committee Team of the BSI Staff Welfare Association, followed by the opening prayer by Rev. Premkumar Soans, Hon. Treasurer of the BSI. Mr. Joel Abraham led in the singing of the hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness". Rev. Dr. M. Mani Chacko, General Secretary of the BSI, welcomed and felicitated the President, Rev. Dr. P.N.S. Chandra Bose. The Karnataka Auxiliary Team read the Scripture text from the Bible, after a special song in Hindi "Sare Shristi Ke Malik Tumhi Ho", by Mr. Pradeep Kumar Suna.

Dr. Bose delivered an inspiring and challenging message, emphasizing the obedience of Abraham in all circumstances even though it was difficult. Reminding us of God's faithfulness to men, women and families in the Bible, Dr. Bose inspired and

challenged us to remember God's faithfulness to the Bible Society of India, over 200 years, and encouraged all to be faithful to God in small things and big things.

Dr. Miss E. Leelavathi Manasseh made a power point presentation and led the season of prayer session meaningfully. The four-fold focus of the presentation included Translations, Scripture Engagement, National Bible Societies, General Secretaries and Staff in the Regions as well as Staff and Leadership of the United Bible Societies.

Dr. Mrs. Navamani E. Peter, former President and the local former members of the BSI Executive Committee, who were invited to this celebration also took part in the season of prayer. Rev. Dr. P.N.S. Chandra Bose offered the closing prayer and benediction. Mrs. Mini Suna expressed words of gratitude. After Mr. Daniel Paul made the announcements, the celebration concluded with fellowship tea arranged by Mr. E. Solomon and Team. Mrs. Nirmala Gomez and Mr. Desmond Snell served as Ushers.

*Religious Affairs Committee,
Staff Welfare Association,
The BSI*

REV. DR. P.N.S. CHANDRA BOSE INAUGURATED THE BSI ARCHIVES



It was a red letter day in the life of the BSI when the President of the BSI, Rev. Dr. P.N.S. Chandra Bose inaugurated the BSI Archives to the glory of God on June 11, 2013, in the Bible World, Logos building, Bangalore



Rev. Dr. M. Mani Chakko sharing about the Archives



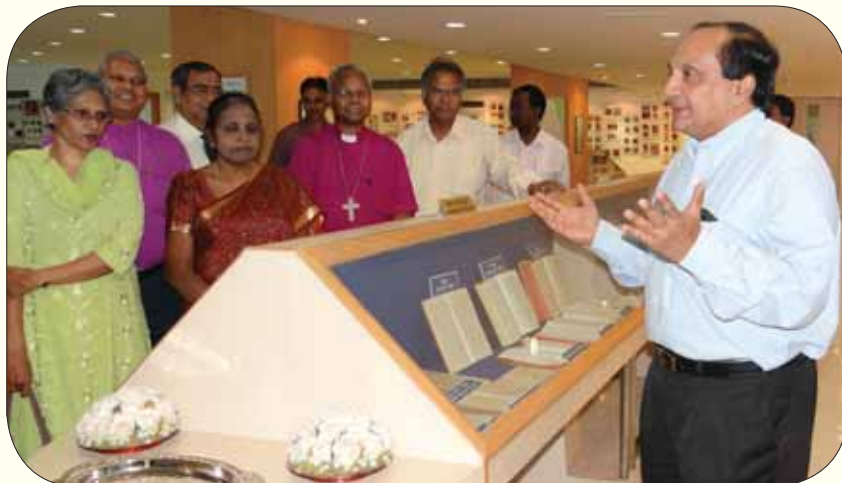
President, Vice President and the General Secretary cutting the ribbon after prayer

and offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Members of the BSI Executive Committee, Directors and Staff also took part in this function.

The General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Mani Chacko, said, "I felt the need for setting up an archives since I took over the reins of the BSI in 2011". As the General Secretary affirms, there is no present without the past, and no

future without the past and the present - the BSI needs to safeguard its historical records for its own value, for posterity and for research in the realm of translation history, printing, distribution of Bibles in various languages, Scripture Engagement, Resource Mobilisation, etc.

As the Archives need to be built up through the years, it cannot be set up overnight.



Rev. Dr. M. Mani Chacko sharing about the Archives

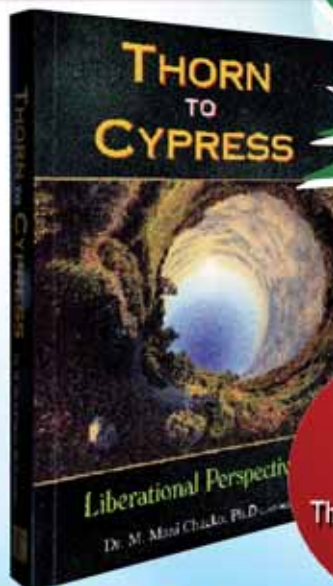
Records, files, correspondence, Bibles in full and portions etc., need to be gathered, collected in the archives for storage and preservation in a systematic manner for future use and research.

As such, work on the materials from the BSI Office at William Carey Centre, Hall Road, began a year ago. It first had to be cleaned, dusted, sorted out and de-wormed before classifying and cataloguing them. They were then shifted to the Archives at the Logos premises on Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bangalore. Preparations were earlier made to accommodate these files and materials in a proper room with shelves and racks for accessibility. An Archivist has been appointed and is being trained to look after and collect necessary materials for the Archives, from the various Auxiliaries and Departments of the Bible Society of India.

Besides the BSI Team, Churches and all those who have historical documents of value on the Bible Society of India, Bible translations, Bible Engagement, photographs etc., are requested to deposit the same with the Archives. The Archivist will visit (if requested) the centres where these materials are kept, for scrutinizing their value for acquisition for the Archives.

*Mrs. Rita Wesley,
former Librarian,
United Theological College,
Bangalore*

**A WIDE RANGE OF
ENGLISH IMPORTED BIBLES,
STUDY EDITIONS AND OTHER
THEOLOGICAL BOOKS
AVAILABLE
AT THE BEST PRICE**



**NEW
ARRIVAL**

Special
Discount for
Theological Colleges
and Students

**A THEOLOGICAL INSIGHT TO
CONTEMPORARY ISSUES**

Contact



THE BOOK ROOM

(A UNIT OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF INDIA)

No. 2, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bangalore-560 001 INDIA

Phone: +91-22223813, 22223814, 41325952

Email: bsibookroom@gmail.com

PROJECT ROUNDTABLE 2013

The Bible Society of India is part of the global body known as the United Bible Societies (UBS). There are 140 Bible Societies who are members of the UBS. The Project Roundtable is an annual feature and one of the largest UBS meetings. The Round Table 2013 has been attended by representatives from around 70 Bible Societies. It offers a unique opportunity for the Bible Societies with different perspectives to meet, to discuss matters in developing their effective ministries by sharing their time and talents. This year, the Project Roundtable was held in Bangalore, India, from 11th to 14th June 2013 at Hotel Sheraton, Brigade Gateway, Bangalore.

Rev. Dr. M. Mani Chacko, Rev. Dr. Jonadob Nathaniel and Rev. Dr. Doug Birdsall ministered during the Morning Devotions. Rev. Dr. Robert Cunville, President, and Mr. Michael Perreau General Secretary of the United Bible Societies welcomed and greeted the gathering. The Worship was

led by the BESY Choir from the Aizawl Auxiliary of the Bible Society of India.

Currently Bible Societies are implementing projects in various countries which focus on children, women, disabled, marginalised, HIV patients and the unreached ethnic groups. During this Conference the delegates presented some of the project proposals and this was evaluated by the other delegates. Seminars, Presentations and One to One Consultations were held during the conference to equip the delegates. These seminars addressed the issues of technological advances and showcased innovative methods to deal with specific issues and circumstances that need to be addressed in our modern society.

A guided tour to the BSI Offices was organised for all the participants. A few Participants visited Mysore – an ancient city in India and in Karnataka. Many Participants visited the BSI Project centres in and around Bangalore, under the leadership of two

Directors of the BSI namely, Dr. E. Leelavathi Manasseh and Dr. P.I. Varghese. They enjoyed being with the marginalised people, listening to their stories and testimonies, in order to understand the impact of the Word of God on their lives, and saw how God's Word has been slowly transforming people, enabling them to lead a meaningful life in the midst of many challenges.

We are thankful to UBS for giving the Bible Society of India, the privilege of hosting it, under the leadership of our General Secretary, Rev. Dr. M. Mani Chacko. It was a great joy for me to coordinate the Event with the help of my colleague Directors, Senior Managers, Managers and Staff of the Bible Society of India and I am grateful to each one of them. Truly, God honoured our team efforts and blessed it immensely. The Participants have expressed their joys and thanks to one and all.

I am also thankful to our General Secretary for giving our Executive Committee Members the privilege to be at the opening ceremony on the 11th and the Auxiliary Secretaries, the privilege to join us for the closing session on the 14th.

*Rev. Dr. Jonadob Nathaniel,
Director (Translations
Department) and Project
Coordinator of the Bible
Society of India.*

Activities of the Project Round Table 2013 at Bangalore

2013
UBS ROUNDTABLE EXCHANGE



Activities of the Project Round Table 2013 at Bangalore

2013 UBS ROUNDTABLE EXCHANGE



Activities of the Project Round Table 2013 at Bangalore

2013
UBS ROUNDTABLE EXCHANGE



Activities of the Project Round Table 2013 at Bangalore

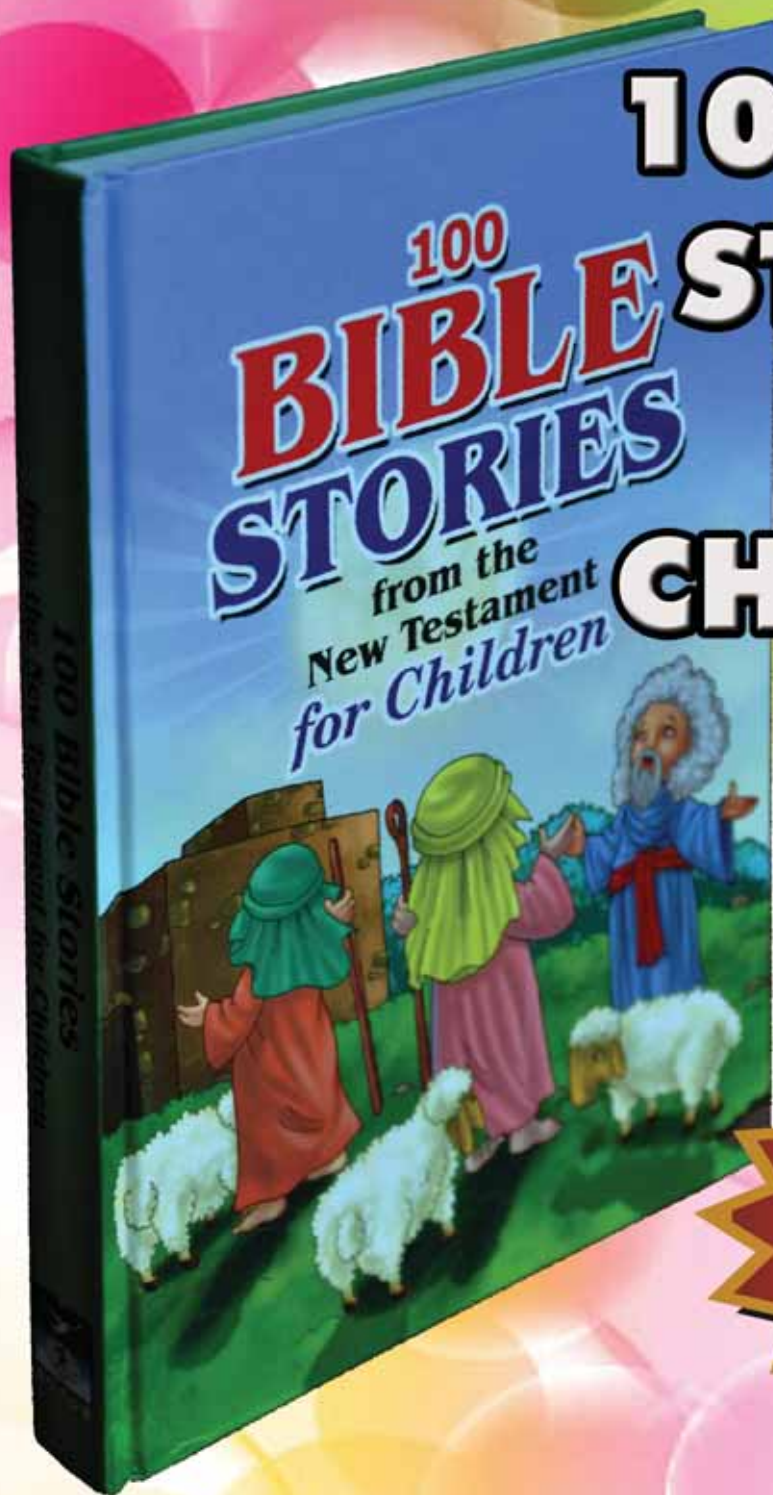
2013
UBS ROUNDTABLE EXCHANGE



Activities of the Project Round Table 2013 at Bangalore

2013 UBS ROUNDTABLE EXCHANGE





100 BIBLE STORIES FOR CHILDREN

₹ 225/-
ONLY
(Printed on Imported Art Paper)

For Your Copies & Trade Enquiries Please Contact:



THE BOOK ROOM
(A UNIT OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF INDIA)
No. 2, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bangalore-560 001 INDIA
Phone: +91-22223813, 22223814, 41325952

NEWS FROM CENTRAL OFFICE



News and Views from across the nation and around the world are covered in this section in order to encourage people to know what the Lord has been doing in every situation and engage them in the activities of God. Obituaries, as received are also included.

NATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. M. Mani Chacko, General Secretary, The BSI

Hearty Congratulations to the President of the Bible Society of India!

I am very happy to inform you that our President Rev. Dr. P.N.S. Chandra Bose has been appointed as the Vice Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh State Minorities Commission by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for a period of three years. This is indeed a great honour not only for the Bible Society of India but also for the entire Christian Community. I request you to kindly keep Rev. Dr. P.N.S. Chandra Bose in your prayers so that he will be able to carry out the responsibilities entrusted to his care. The BSI Family extends hearty congratulations to President Chandra Bose!

Christian Community in Andhra Pradesh felicitated Rev. Dr. P. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose:



The Revd. Dr. P.N.S Chandra Bose being felicitated by Bishop Gali Bali, Bishop John Gollapalli, Mr. Alfred, I.P.S (former), Dr. Challappa, I.A.S, Dr. Arun Kumar K. Mohonty, Mr. Paul Pulla, Mr. M.D. Aaradhana T.V, Mr. Dhanam, I.A.S and others at a function organized by Christian Social Forum together.



Mr. J.D. Seelam, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, felicitates The Revd. Dr. P.N.S Chandra Bose on his appointment as the Vice-Chairman, Minorities Commission, Government of Andhra Pradesh



Dr. Joseph D'souza, President, All India Christian Council felicitates The Revd. Dr. P.N.S Chandra Bose.



Members of Andhra Pradesh Pastors' Fellowship felicitate The Revd. Dr. P.N.S Chandra Bose at Rajahmundry

Change in Two BSI Departments

We are glad to announce that the Executive Committee of the Bible Society of India at its meeting during June 2013 at the BSI Central Office, Logos, has made the following changes in two Departments:

1. The Resource Mobilisation and Ministry Department (RM & MD), which was known as the Resource mobilization Department (RMD) from November 1995 to May 2007, and as the Resource Mobilisation and Ministry Department (RM & MD) from June 2007 to June 2013; and during June 2013 the Department has been renamed as 'Resource Mobilisation and Church Relations Department' (RM & CRD). This is one of the outcomes of the theme of the Central Council 2013, giving importance to the relationship between the Bible Society of India and the Church in India. Dr. Miss Elizabeth Leelavathi Manasseh will continue to direct the RM & CR Department.

2. The Public Relations Department (PRD) formed in 2011 was added to the Audio Visual Media Department (AVM). During June 2013 the PRD has been separated from AVM. Rev. G.D.V. Prasad will continue to direct the Audio Visual Media Department.

Appointment of New Auxiliary Secretaries

Rev. P. Moses Davadason



We are glad to announce that Rev. P. Moses Devadason, who has been serving the Bible Society of India, Tamil Nadu Auxiliary since 1993, and as the Marketing Officer from November 1, 2011, is appointed as the Auxiliary Secretary of Tamil Nadu Auxiliary by the BSI Executive Committee at its meeting held on June 11, 2013 at the Central Office, Logos, Bangalore.

Rev. P. M. Devadason was born in 1962. He has a Master's degree in Religion and Philosophy from Madurai Kamaraj University. He obtained his Bachelor of Divinity and Post Graduate Diploma in Theology from the Tamil Nadu Theological Seminary. In April 2002 Rev. Devadason was ordained as Presbyter in the Diocese of Madras of the Church of South India.

Mrs. Evelyn Moses is working as Librarian in the St. Christopher College of Education. Rev. Moses and Mrs. Evelyn Devadason worship at the Annanagar Loving Shepherd Church of the Church of South India.

Rev. Dr. Ashish Kumar Patro



We are glad to announce that Rev. Dr. Ashish Kumar Patro is appointed as the Auxiliary Secretary of the Odhisha Auxiliary by the Executive Committee at its meeting held on June 21, 2013 at Cuttack. Rev. Dr. Ashish Kumar Patro was born in 1954. He has a Bachelor degree in Education and a Master's degree in American and European Literature from Utkal University. He has obtained his Bachelor of Divinity from the Serampore College, West Bengal and D. Min from the Indian Theological Research Institute, Tamil Nadu.

Rev. Dr. Ashish Kumar Patro started his career as a teacher. In the year 1992 he was ordained as the Presbyter in the Diocese of Cuttack of the Church of North India, and has served the Church of North India since then in various capacities, such as, Assistant Pastor, Presbyter-In-Charge, Area Superintendent, etc. He also served the India Campus Crusade for Christ in Cuttack and was the State Director for the State of Odisha during 1998- 2004.

Mrs. Minati Patro is a Home-Maker. Rev. Dr. Ashish and Mrs. Minati Patro have two daughters who are married and a son, who is eighteen years old, studying plus 2. The Patro family worships at the Cuttack Oriya Baptist Church.

Reports from the Departments

Finance Department

Mr. John Abraham, Assistant Manager (Accounts) and Mrs. Bharathi John, Accounts Officer participated in the Workshop on "VAT & CST" held during February 2013 at Hotel Ramanashree, Bangalore organized by Messrs Hiregange & Associates. They found the workshop helpful.

*Mr. M. David Vergis,
Director, Finance Department*

RM & CR Department

National Summit and Retreat

The Resource Mobilisation and Church Relations Department organised a National Summit at Hotel Sheraton and the Retreat at the BSI Central Office, Logos, Bangalore, during June 2013, for the Auxiliary Secretaries. The purpose of the Summit was to look at resource mobilization and also re-visit the implementation of life-related projects through the Auxiliaries and the Central Office. The Auxiliary Secretaries expressed: "We are grateful to Mr. Michael Perreau, General Secretary of the United Bible Societies for ministering among us at the retreat which has been a blessing to all".

Trauma Counselling Awareness Consultation

The Resource Mobilisation and Church Relations Department organized a consultation on "Trauma

Counselling Awareness" on July 19, 2013 at Vishranthi Nilayam in Bangalore. It was a joy to lead the consultation with Dr. Harriet Hill, a Trainer from American Bible Society, as our key Resource Person. We are thankful to the Churches in Bangalore for sending their key participants, who would in turn hold such a consultation in their local Churches. The Participants responded, "Thank you Bible Society for holding this Consultation. Please plan for the follow-up programme next year."

*Dr. E. Leelavathi Manasseh,
Director,
RM & CR Department*

Marketing Department

Bible Exhibition-Cum-Sale

The Annual Bible Exhibition-Cum-Sale was held from the 11th to the 14th May 2013 at Gurukul Theological College, Chennai. More than 3,500





titles and Bibles in different versions were on display and sale. People were attracted to Braille Bibles, a range of Children’s Bibles, Study Bibles, Diglot Bibles, Project Bibles, Audio Bibles, etc.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. A. Rajavelu, Bishop of the Vellore Diocese of Church of South India, and the Vice President of the Bible Society of India, Tamil Nadu Auxiliary, inaugurated this event and Rev. Dr. K. Udaykumar, Principal, Gurukul Theological College offered the opening prayer.

Media, bookshops and the people of Chennai and other surrounding areas visited the Exhibition cum Sale with much enthusiasm. We thank God that the BSI could meet the Bible and other Scripture needs of the people of Tamil Nadu, resulting in a total sale of over 66.5 lakhs of Rupees. The Christian public in Chennai and other parts of Tamil Nadu eagerly look

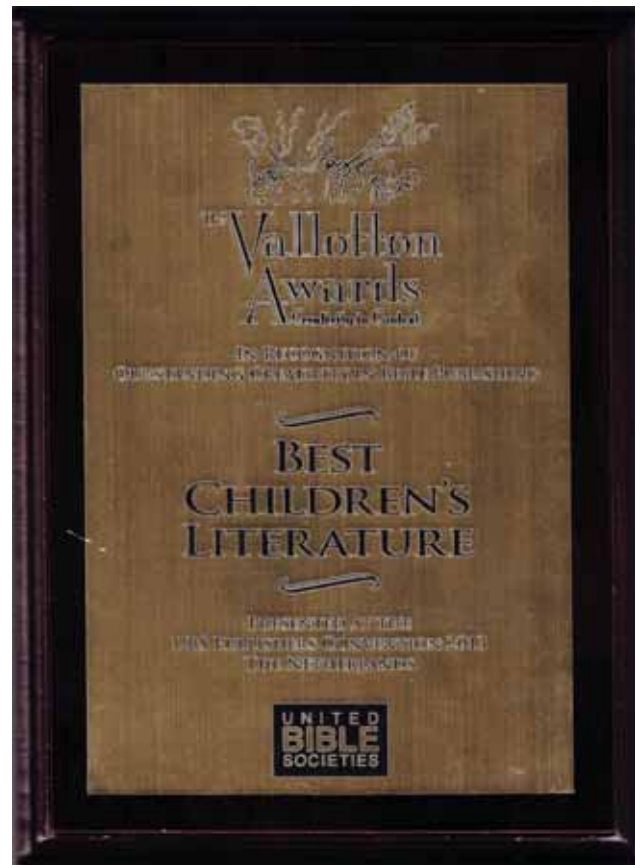
forward to this event every year and there has been an encouraging response in the past eleven years.

BSI Awarded the UBS Vallotton Award at Netherlands

The United Bible Societies (U B S) Publishing Conference held at Amsterdam from the 26th to the 31st May 2013. In a tight competition in this conference, the Bible Society of India was given the prestigious ‘Vallotton Award’ for high creativity in the context of its Children’s book , “Wonderful Stories from the

Bible”. In about five months, over 20,000 copies have been sold in India, with additional export order. This book is now translated into five different languages to meet the needs of the sister Bible Societies.

According to the British Broadcasting Company (BBC), the most published artist in human history is Annie Vallotton, whose simple line drawings in the Good News Bible have been seen around the world. In honour of the contribution that Annie Vallotton has made to the Bible Cause, the United Bible Societies has decided to create “The Vallotton Awards”.



The Annual Planning Workshops – 2013

Two Annual Planning Workshops for the year 2013 were conducted successfully in Kolkata and Secunderabad by the Marketing Department.

The first Annual Planning Workshop was organized in Kolkata between 10th and 12th July 2013 at Hotel Crestwood and was attended by the Secretaries of Aizawl, Dimpaur, Shillong, Kolkata, Odisha, New Delhi, Allahabad and Jabalpur Auxiliaries, along with their Marketing Staff. The second one was held between 24th and 26th July 2013, in Secunderabad at the Catholic Health Association of India, for Andhra Pradesh, Bombay, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu Auxiliaries, along with their Marketing Staff.

Both the Annual Planning Workshops experienced rich spiritual blessings, shared by the Director (Marketing), Dr. P.I. Varghese, Auxiliary Secretary (Kerala) Rev. Dr. Mathew Varkey and the Director AVM, Rev. G.D.V. Prasad, during the Morning Prayer sessions.

The distribution performances of the Auxiliaries were reviewed, discussed in detail and future plan was made for the year 2013 and 2014. Product, price, place and promotion relating to Scriptures were

also discussed in detail. The recent challenges of competition and duplication of the BSI text by some of the miscreants caused a concern among all the participants and all have unanimously agreed to face the challenge and take necessary precaution to prevent such type of duplications.

The Director (Marketing) emphasised the importance of market research and expressed his desire to introduce new products in the market in all the categories. The Senior Manager Accounts (Marketing) also

explained the importance of inventory management, logistic operation and the importance of fund flow operations.

Marketing Management Philosophy

Production Concept

- Individuals favour products that are available and highly affordable
- Improve production and distribution

Product Concept

- People favour product that offer quality, durability and more features.



APW Sessions at Kolkata and Hyderabad

Selling Concept

People will buy products only if the publisher promotes/sells these products

Marketing Concept

Focus on the need of market and delivering satisfaction better than competitors.

The Audio Visual Media Department also actively participated in the Workshop and explained the future strategies of electronic media. Both the planning workshops were facilitated by Dr. P.I. Varghese, Director (Marketing), Rev. G.D.V. Prasad, Director (AVM), Mr. G.R. Samal, Sr. Manager Accounts (Marketing) and Mr. Deelip Kumar Sahu, Manager, (AVM).

Reported by Dr. P.I. Varghese, Director, Marketing Department

FAREWELL TO COLLEAGUES

Mr. Joji Kaden

A farewell function was organized at the Central Office, William Carey Centre, Hall Road, on May 31, 2013 in honour of Mr. Joji Jacob Kaden, Senior Manager, Translations Department. It was noted that Mr. Kaden had served the Bible Society of India for about 27 years in different departments - as the Manager for about 21 years and as the Senior Manager for about 6 years. Mr. F. T. Fernandez offered the opening prayer, followed by the congregational hymn

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”. Mrs. Ruma Das read the Scripture text - Psalm 91. Rev. Premraj Nag and Mr. John Abraham felicitated Mr. Joji Kaden. The BSI choir rendered a special song. Rev. Dr. M. Mani Chacko, General Secretary, delivered an inspiring message, greeted Mr. Joji Kaden and presented a memento, shawl and a cash gift to him.

Mr. Joji Kaden thanked the BSI family for the unconditional support

extended to him during his tenure. As a token of his appreciation to the BSI family, Mr. Joji Kaden rendered a special song. After the congregational hymn “God be with you till we meet again”, Rev. Dr. Jonadob Nathaniel, Director, Translations Department, offered the closing prayer and pronounced the benediction. The function concluded with the Staff greeting Mr. Kaden and enjoying the fellowship tea, together.



Rev. Dr. M. Mani Chacko honouring Mr. Joji Kaden



Mr. Joji Kaden thanked the BSI family for the unconditional support extended to him during his tenure.

Mr. J. M. R. Raju

A farewell function was organized at the Central Office, William Carey Centre, Hall Road on July 31, 2013, in honour of Mr. J.M.R. Raju, who retired as the Administrative Officer in the Translations Department. It was noted that Mr. Raju had served the Bible Society of India, for over four decades. Mr. David Vergis, Director, Finance Department, offered the opening prayer which was followed by the congregational hymn "All the Way My Saviour Leads Me". Mrs. Mary M. Neena Seth read the Scripture text - Psalm 121.

Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Jonadob, Director, Translations Department and Rev. G.D.V. Prasad, Director, AVM Department, felicitated Mr. J.M.R. Raju. After giving a short inspiring message, Rev. Dr. M. Mani Chacko, General



Rev. Dr. M. Mani Chacko honouring Mr. J. M. R. Raju

Secretary, greeted Mr. Raju and presented a gift, memento and shawl to him.

Mr. Raju's response was based on Proverbs 30: 7-8. Mr. Raju's daughter, Miss Hannah, who had come from the Emirates, paid a tribute emphasising, "You are the best DAD, I love you very much" . She affirmed Mr. Raju's dedication, honesty and uncompromising stand in practicing Christian ethics.

After the congregational hymn, "God be with you till we meet again", Dr. E. Leelavathi Manasseh, Director, Resource Mobilization and Church Relations Department, offered the prayer of thanksgiving. The function concluded with the Staff greeting Mr. Raju and enjoying the fellowship tea, together.

Reported by Mrs. Nirmala Gomez and Mr. Desmond Snell, The BSI Staff, RM & CRD



Mr. J.M. R. Raju and Miss Hannah Raju seen with the GS and Directors.

Minority Commission Assumes Charge

Hyderabad, May 20/2013:

The re-constituted A.P. Minority Commission, headed by Chairman Abid Rasool Khan, the Vice Chairman and members after assuming their charge met the Chief Minister N Kiran Kumar Reddy and expressed gratitude. They assured the Chief Minister of dedicated service to all Minority communities and said they will discharge their duties to the best of their ability.

The Chairman of the

Commission said that utmost importance would be given to education, social uplift and welfare of all downtrodden and minority communities and financial empowerment especially of minority poor women by extending financial assistance from the Government Minority Commission and other Government bodies. The Chairman also emphasised to take all steps to maintain the social ethos of Minority communities with other communities at large and for peaceful social co-existence in the State.

The Chief Minister expressed confidence in the newly appointed members who represent all Minority communities of the State and come from different professions and said that Government will extend its cooperation and support to the Minority Commission in all its endeavours for the betterment of the Minorities. The members also individually interacted with the Chief Minister and expressed their ideas and plans.

Taken from the Website and adapted



Newly constituted State Minority Commission Chairman Dr Abid Rasool Khan and members called on Shri N Kiran Kumar Reddy, Hon'ble Chief Minister at Camp Office on 20-05-2013. Chairman Dr Abid Rasool Khan, Vice Chairman Rev Dr P N S Chandra Bose, Members: Sardar Sarjith Singh, Prof S M H Basha, Dr Qurratulain Hassan, A Goutham Jain and Mrs Prabha E Joseph were present. (INN).

**Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,
and cometh down from the Father of lights,
with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.**

James 1:17

INTERNATIONAL

Literacy program tackles domestic violence in Latin America. Let us pray for this Project.

A Bible-based literacy programme in Latin America is helping tens of thousands of people, mostly women, gain life-changing literacy skills and breaking the silence surrounding one of the region's biggest scourges – domestic violence.

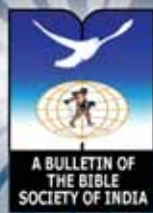
“The Word of God teaches that each individual – whether man or woman – has value and dignity,” says Pablo Gutierrez from the Peruvian Bible Society, who oversees the program in all



five countries. “It is a powerful tool for cultivating healthy family values and promoting a society based on peace and justice. The ‘Read to Live’ Bible

study series are designed to get people thinking about the things that lead to the violence that is quietly tearing families and communities apart.”

SUBSCRIBE NOW!



SOWING CIRCLE

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION
Rs. 100/- per year
per person or
Rs. 1000/- per person
for life time
will help us continue sending
you the magazine.

Kindly send your address
(in block letters with PIN code)
along with your subscription amount to :
THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF INDIA
'LOGOS' 206,
Mahatma Gandhi Road,
Bangalore-560 001

OBITUARIES

Precious in the sight of the LORD (is) the death of His saints. Psalms 116:15

Mr. G.T.S. Pandiaraj

Mr. G.T.S. Pandiaraj passed away into Glory on the 23rd December 2012 after having lived a meaningful life for about 80 years. Mr. Pandiaraj was a Tea Planter and a Tea Machinery Engineer by profession. He was totally committed to the services of the Lord, well known for his active involvement at St. Luke's Church, Kotagiri. He played a significant role in the BSI Kotagiri Branch as an office bearer for many decades, following the footsteps of his parents and grandparents. Mr. Pandiaraj's wife, three children and their spouses and many grandchildren will appreciate our prayers to continue his great work for the Bible Society of India.

Mrs. Vijaya Kumari Gershom

Mrs. Vijaya Kumari Gershom, the mother of Mr. E. Ashith, Director (Production Department) and Mr. E. Solomon, Sr. Manager (HR & A Department) was called Home on February 5, 2013 at the age of 77. The BSI family visited the bereaved family and attended the burial service. Late Mrs. Gershom was a woman of prayer and was a great blessing to her



Mrs. Vijaya Kumari Gershom

three sons, three daughters-in-law and children, and to her daughter, son-in-law and children. They will appreciate our prayers.

Mr. Prakash Paira

Mr. Prakash Paira was promoted to Glory on April 5, 2013 at the age of 63. He was the son of the Late Mr. G.C. Paira and Late Mrs. Nchumbeni Ezung. He completed his schooling at the Government



High School, Kohima and graduated from St. Edmund's College, Shillong. He started the 'Little Star School' in 1983 with just 13 students and today this school is known as 'Little Star Higher Secondary School' with 1200 students. Mr. Prakash Paira was actively engaged with the Dimapur Auxiliary, particularly as the Football Co-ordinator for Bible Tournament, which generated funds and attracted more donors. He served as the Secretary of the BSI Dimapur Town Branch from 2002 to 2013. His wife, Mrs. Nini Sekhose, the three sons and their spouses, a daughter and two grand children need our prayers.

Dr. Medai Gangmei

Dr. Medai Gangmei who worked as a surgeon at the Supercare Hospital in Shillong suddenly passed away on May 8, 2013, while he was asleep. Dr. Medai was the son of Rev. Gangmei, former Editorial Manager, at the Shillong Translations Centre of the Bible Society of India. The Gangmei family will appreciate our prayers.

Prof. S. Panneer Selvam

Prof. S. Panneer Selvam slept in the Lord on June 2, 2013. He was associated with the Bible

Society of India for about 31 years in the Bible Translation work. His great desire was to see the Bible translated into many languages. Prof. S. Panneer Selvam made an impact for the Lord Jesus Christ on the Church and Society. His wife, Mrs. D. Sudandira Devi and children will appreciate our prayers.

Rev. Lalbiakluanga



Rev. Lalbiakluanga was called Home on July 29,

2013. He was a valuable member of the Bible Society of India, Aizawl Auxiliary ever since the Auxiliary was formed in the year 1978. He was the first President of the Aizawl Auxiliary during 1978-1983 and he also served the National BSI Executive Committee as the Second Vice President during 1985-1987. Rev. Lalbiakluanga was one of the Mizo Bible translators. He was a blessing to the Bible Society of India. Mrs. Lalbiakluanga and family will appreciate our prayers.

Mr. T.Y. Waghmare

Mr. T.Y. Waghmare, BSI Pune Branch Secretary, went to be with the Lord on August 30, 2013, at the blessed age of 90. He served the BSI through the Pune Branch for more than 60 years. The Auxiliary Secretary, Rev. Dr. Victor Gollapalli, Mr. Shantwan Raiborde and Mr.

Sunil Pawar of the Bombay Auxiliary attended the burial service, and represented the BSI family. Gospel singer, Mr. Anil Kant and his wife Reena Kant were also present at the funeral service. They travelled all the way from Nagpur to Pune. Mr. Waghmare was affectionately known as "Uncle Waghmare". He was a great leader who was known for vision, passion, compassion, discipline, simple life style and industriousness. He used to travel by bus daily in order to visit Churches and Christian families to raise funds for the Bible Cause. His wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Tarachand Waghmare and their five daughters, their spouses, 13 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren, need our prayers.

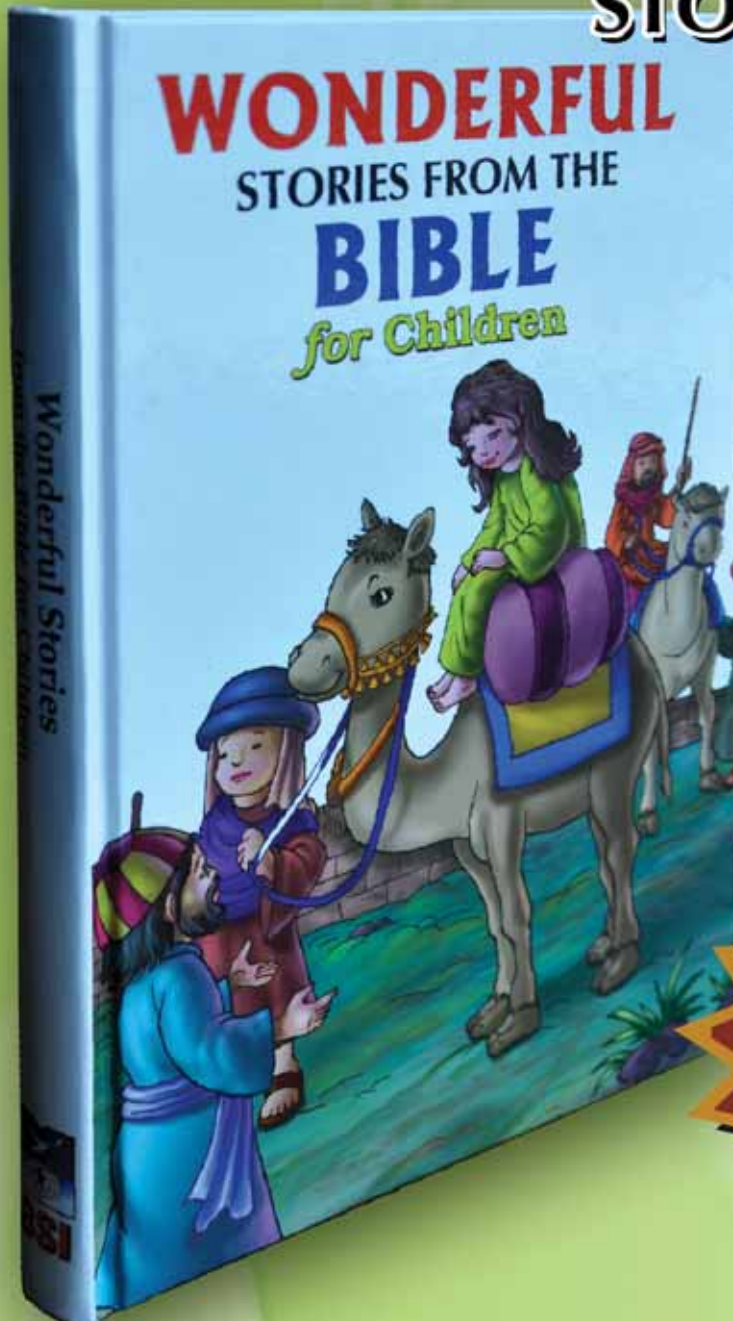
**Let us praise God for these departed brothers and sisters.
Let us pray for their bereaved families.**

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

WONDERFUL STORIES FROM THE BIBLE *for Children*



₹ 225/-
ONLY
(Printed on Imported
Art Paper)

For Your Copies & Trade Enquiries Please Contact:



THE BOOK ROOM

(A UNIT OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF INDIA)

No. 2, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bangalore-560 001 INDIA

Phone: +91-22223813, 22223814, 41325952

AUXILIARY NEWS



We are grateful to God for the encouraging response that we receive from individuals, families, Churches, Organizations, Institutions and Mission Bodies for distributing God's Word to people from all walks of life, promoting the Study of God's Word and raising contributions for the Mission and Ministry of the Bible Society of India

AIZAWL

By Elder C. Thangnghihlova
Auxiliary Secretary

THE FIRST HOLY BIBLE IN KOK BOROK

Rev Dr. M. Mani Chacko, our General Secretary, was able to release and dedicate the Kok Borok Holy Bible - BAIBEL KWTHAR on June 18, 2013 at the Khumulwng Baptist Church, Tripura after a long hard work of 29 years by the Translation team. Thousands of Kok Borok speaking people gathered to witness this historic event. "Now I can die peacefully," declared Rev. Kishore Debbarma with tears and full of emotions, "for the Word of God shall continue to speak to my people in our own language even after my death. Praise the Lord!"

This Release Programme was followed by a Mass Rally where about 10,000 people participated at the Autonomous District Council Head Quarters, Khumulwng Town in Tripura.

I had the joy of inaugurating this Celebration Programme by lighting a candle and also releasing the audio & video albums to commemorate this memorable occasion, the previous night.

The Kok Borok speaking community received The Holy Bible with love and reverence, and celebrated this



Rev Dr M Mani Chacko, General Secretary, releasing The Kok Borok Bible



Elder C. Thangnghihlova, Auxiliary Secretary releasing Audio & Video Albums





Christian Young People Performing Cultural Dance

new Bible release to the best of their knowledge, including attractive cultural shows.

30th Anniversary of UBS Day of Prayer

We observed this on May 9, 2013 at the Bible House. It was a time of remembering God's faithfulness and praising God. We prayed for various concerns that we received from the Central Office.

National Summit and Retreat

I took part in the National Summit and Retreat organised and conducted by the Resource Mobilisation and Church Relations Department at Bangalore on the 14th and 15th June 2013 respectively, under the leadership of Dr. E. Leelavathi Manasseh, Director (RM& CRD). We were blessed

by the ministry of Mr. Mike Perareau, General Secretary of the United Bible Societies. We had the privilege of attending the closing session of the Project Round Table 2013 of the United Bible Societies held at Sheraton Hotel in Bangalore.

BESY Choir's Ministry during PRT 2013

The Besy Choir was invited to minister during the Round Table 2013, which was a great honour for the Aizawl Auxiliary. We are thankful to Rev. Dr. M. Mani Chacko, General Secretary and Rev. Dr. Jonadob Nathaniel, Project Coordinator and Director (Translations Department) of the BSI for giving us this privilege.

The young adults say, "Thank you BSI and UBS!"



ALLAHABAD

By Rev. Dr. Rajan Dass

Auxiliary Secretary

Christian Leaders' Conference

The Auxiliary in collaboration with our Korean friends held a one day Christian Leaders Conference on April 11, 2013 in the Auxiliary premises. About 11 Korean friends and 300 local Christian Leaders participated in this event and were blessed.

Pearl Jubilee: UBS Day of Prayer

The 30th anniversary of UBS Day of Prayer was held at the Bible House on May 9, 2013. It was a joy to have local Presbyters and Leaders with us. Mr. Ravi Singh read Psalm 117 and Mr. Richard R. Cross read Matthew Chapter

13 Verses 1-9. Rev. J. V. Ghosh, Senior Pastor of the Church of North India and our Auxiliary Committee Member delivered an inspiring message based on the Bible readings. This was followed by Intercessory Prayer by Sister Sunita Bailey, Mr. Richard R. Cross, Mr. Manish Singh and I. Dr. Samson Nanda, Assistant Manager (Accounts) gave the vote of thanks. Rev. Fredrick K. Masih and I pronounced the benediction. Thereafter, we assembled together for fellowship tea and refreshments.

Bible Sunday Services

The Bible Sunday Service was held in three different places namely, Lucknow, Moradabad and Allahabad regions during May 2013. The Lucknow Regional

Conference of the Methodist Church in India had invited the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri. Akhilesh Kumar Yadav at the Central Methodist Church, Lucknow. The Rt. Revd. Dr. Phillip S. Masih, Bishop of the MCI, and I presented a copy of the Hindi Diglot Bible to the Chief Minister. Bishop Masih also requested the Chief Minister for the development of the Methodist Church in Uttar Pradesh. The Chief Minister highly appreciated the invitation given by the Bishop and assured the Christians of his full support.

At Moradabad, one day Youth Conference was organized on 18th May at the Central Methodist Church where Mr. Abhineet Das and others, ministered among 120 young people.

On the 18th May, a Bible



Presenting the Diglot Hindi Bible to Hon'ble Chief Minister – Shri Akhilesh Kumar Yadav



Bible Exhibition-cum-Sale at Moradabad

Rev. Dr. PNS Chandra Bose, President, National Bible Society of India, said, “..... over the years, the ministry of BSI is well supported by the Bible lovers of our country. We need to continue to strengthen our efforts to raise more contributions in the days to come to print more Bibles for the transformation of the lives of the people of our country”. He encouraged the Branches to start Fellowship

Exhibition-cum-Sale was organised in two places and on the 19th four team members preached in four different Churches. We thank God for His blessings and the generosity of the people in these regions. A sum of Rs.12,000/- was given as offerings and the sale proceeds of Scriptures amounted Rs.40,000/-. We are grateful to God for the encouraging response.



President delivering the message

ANDHRA PRADESH

**By Rev. Samuel Raja Sekhar
Bobbili**

Auxiliary Secretary

BRANCH OFFICERS CONFERENCE 2103

The Branch Officers Conference 2013 was held from the 25th to the 27th April 2013, at Bethel Bible College, Guntur. 160 Branch Officers and Auxiliary Committee members participated in it. In his inaugural address,



Dr. Leela Bose Distributing the Awards

Gatherings and meet once a week and strengthen further the relations with local Christian populace. Some Branch Officers reported about the contribution targets achieved and the programmes being done at the branch level. Targets were set for the branches for the year 2013.

It was my privilege to present the Annual Report on the activities of the Auxiliary. On May 27, 2013, during the morning devotion I shared a few thoughts based on Psalms 18:30. During the final session, awards were presented to the top three branches for the collection of contributions. Travel bags were gifted to all the Branch Officers as a token of love for their sincere and untiring efforts in fund raising. The President gave an exhortation from Isaiah 52:7 and led the Rededication Service. The conference concluded with a felicitation service to congratulate Rev. Dr. PNS Chandra Bose on his elevation as the President of the Bible Society of India.

UBS Day of Prayer

We praise the Almighty God for enabling us to celebrate the 30th UBS Day of Prayer at the Bible House on May 9, 2013. The meeting commenced with the opening prayer by Mrs. Jhansi Vinod, followed by a hymn in Telugu titled "Annikalambula Manna



Leaders Distributing Awards



UBS Day of Prayer

Yehovah". The Scripture text taken from the book of Ephesians Chapter 6 verses 18-20 were read by Mr. Prasad.

Mr. Webster, our Marketing Officer, made a power point presentation. Mr. Deva Raj and Mrs. Rose Catherine prayed for various prayer requests, followed by a special song by Mrs. Vimala Simon. Thereafter, I shared the Word of God. Mrs. Dena Bernard offered the closing prayer and I pronounced the benediction, followed by the Doxology. A fellowship tea was arranged for all the participants.

Hyderabad North Branch Meeting

On 25th June 2013 the Hyderabad North Branch meeting was held at YWCA, Hyderabad. All the fund raisers and the



Auxiliary Secretary delivering the message



The Branch Team



Sister Sita sharing



Rev. Dr. J. Oliver distributing the Award

contributors were invited to this meeting and the response was overwhelming. The Mementos and the Certificates were distributed to the Fund Raisers. The gift Bibles were given to the Chief Patrons who contributed Rs. 5,000/-. I shared God's Word and also gave the latest updates of the ministry of the Bible Society of India. The invitees included some prominent Christian leaders namely, Rev. Dr. J. Oliver, President, Andhra Pradesh Council of Churches and Sister Joy Cherian, a popular TV preacher. The meeting concluded with fellowship dinner.

Ministry in KAZIPET and WARANGAL BRANCHES

I visited the tri-cities namely, Kazipet, Warangal and Hanumakonda BSI Branches on the 10th and 11th August 2013. We had the gathering of the Branch Officers, Pastors and a few well wishers of the BSI. It was felt in the meeting that there is a need to revive the branches in this area. This will enable us to increase the contributions more than the present figures which are around Rupees One lakh only. It was agreed in the meeting to have a wider representation of various

Churches denominations in the Branch committee as the Christian population is high in number. The present Office Bearers have promised to plan and expand the branch.

I preached in the worship service at the Centenary Baptist Church, Hanumakonda. This Church is a mega Church having more than 60 branches spread across three districts. The Bible Sunday celebration, that had stopped, has been revived. The Senior Pastor has assured us that it will be observed every year, as done in the past years, and the offering will be given to the BSI for the Bible Cause.

The Bible Society of India

Invites you to

The Bible World

a Unique

Bible Museum

at 'LOGOS'

206, Mahatma Gandhi Road
Bangalore - 560 001

Visiting hours:

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If intimated in advance, we will keep it open beyond the visiting hours.
Telephone : (080) 4151 2580



COME AND SEE THE BIBLE FROM CLAY TABLETS TO COMPUTER

- How the Bible came to us
- Ancient Bibles
- Bible on postal stamps
- Collections from the Holy Land
- Quotes on the Bible by great people
- Digital animated Bible stories and
- Encyclopedia on a touch-screen computer
- Children's Bible, Bible games and songs on touch-screen computer

DIMAPUR

By Rev. Dr. Z.K. Rochill

Sr. Auxiliary Secretary

Release of the Wancho Naga CL Bible

It was a time for rejoicing when I released the Wancho Naga CL Bible at the Wancho Baptist Churches Association (WBCA), Centre Church, Niauna, Longding, Arunachal Pradesh, in the presence of Mr. G. Hosheto, Transport Commissioner, Government of Nagaland. Mr. Hosheto applauded the Wancho Naga Community for finally getting the Bible in their own dialect and donated a sum of Rs.1,40,000/- for printing this Bible. About 2000 copies were sold instantly. Mr. Noktham Wangsu, Executive Secretary and Rev. Mankai, Translator, expressed their appreciation to the Bible Society of India for providing God's word in the Wancho dialect. Finally a special song was given by the Centre Church Women Society and Youth group of WBCA.

Advent Christmas Programme

The Advent Christmas Programme was held on December 19, 2012, in the premises of the Bible House. Rev. S. Vitoshe Swu, Executive Secretary WSBK and Executive Committee Member, Bible Society, was



Wancho Naga Bible Release – Mr. Noktham Wangsu and his wife with Mr & Mrs. G. Hosheto Achumi



Wancho Naga Women Society presenting a special song during the Wancho Bible Release



Wancho Naga Youth Presenting a Special Song

the guest speaker. In his message, Rev. S. Vitoshe commended the ministry of the Bible Society of India for providing the Word of God to many in our nation and beyond.

Annual Conference of Upper Assam Sumi Baptist Christian Union

The Annual Conference of the Upper Assam Sumi Baptist Christian Union was held at the Tsaliki Baptist Church from the 4th to the 6th January 2013 near Arunachal Pradesh, where I was the guest speaker. My message appealed to the participants to stand upon the Word of God to know more about the love of God. I also praised God for enabling us to sell Scriptures worth Rs.8,560/- and raise contributions - Rs. 11,500/-. The story of Mary Jones leaflet was also distributed.

Staff Retreat of Dimapur Auxiliary

The Auxiliary Staff Retreat was held on February 2, 2013 at the Bible House. The main purpose of this retreat was to get recharged spiritually, to share one's own experience of the work, spend time in prayer and fellowship, together. I gave the message from the Word of God encouraging the Staff to thank God for the privilege of serving Him through the Bible Society of India.



Miss Agnes Ezung presenting a gift to Rev. S. Vitoshe during the Advent Christmas programme



Auxiliary Secretary speaking during the Upper Assam Sumi Baptist Churches Annual Conference at the Tsaliki Baptist Church



Dimapur Auxiliary Staff Retreat at the Bible House

Third Graduation Service

I was invited to address the students, with a very practical message, at the Third Graduation Service of the Timothy Theological Institute & College in Dimapur on April 17, 2013. The College is offering two courses, namely, Bachelor of Theology and Master of Divinity.

GUJARAT

By Rev. Dr. Nicholas G. Parmar

Sr. Auxiliary Secretary

Pearl Jubilee Celebration of UBS Day of Prayer

We celebrated the 30th anniversary of the UBS Day of Prayer at the Bible House on May 9, 2013. It was a time of remembering and praising God for His faithfulness to the Bible Movement around the world, and praying for various prayer requests.

JABALPUR

By Rev. Joel Patrick

Auxiliary Secretary

30th Anniversary: UBS Day of Prayer

The UBS Day of Prayer was held at the Bible House on May 9, 2013, with Rev. Dr. J.H. Anand, the first Auxiliary Secretary of this Auxiliary, as our Chief Guest. Dr. Anand delivered an inspiring message, emphasising the importance of working



Auxiliary Secretary at the Timothy Theological College

together, in reaching out to people of our region with the Word of God, so that they accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord.

He also highlighted that it is important for one and all to be in prayer and seek the Holy Spirit's guidance in our lives to work more effectively, through the Bible Society of India.

All the Staff took active part in the Season of Prayer, as we had listed a number of praise and prayer items as per the guidance received from the Resource Mobilisation and Church Relations Department. I concluded the meeting with prayer and Dr. Anand pronounced the benediction.

Ministry in Ambikapur, Dhamtari and Jagdalpur

Bible Sunday

We are grateful to Rev. Vinod Lakra, Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church and Rev Anis Andrews, District Superintendent,

Methodist Church in India, for inviting me to minister the Word of God in their Church Worship services on 28th July 2013 at Ambikapur and on 4th August at Jagdalpur respectively. We are also thankful to the congregations, for their support. We are thankful to Rev. Dr. Diamond Philus, for his support, too.

Our Relationship with the Churches has been further strengthened. Some more Churches have been added and thus, all of them have agreed to observe the Bible Sunday every year.

Branch Meeting in Dhamtari

On the 5th August 2013 evening we organized the Branch Meeting at Dhamtari and met all the Branch Officers and discuss things regarding fund raising and distribution. Congregations in this region have assured us of their prayer and financial support.

Central Jail in Jagdalpur

Mr. and Mrs. Asim Prakash Lall and Rev. Anis Andrews of the Jagdalpur Branch accompanied Mr. Paul B. Lall (our Staff) and I in visiting the Central Jail in the morning, on August 3, 2013. We met the Jailer, Mr. Gaikwad who cooperated well with us in ministering among 300 prisoners and distributed the Bibles. They expressed their gratitude of thanksgiving to God and the BSI. Please pray for the impact of God's Word upon these prisoners.

KARNATAKA

By Dr. Vasant W. Renick

Sr. Auxiliary Secretary

UBS Day of Prayer

We are thankful to our General Secretary, Rev. Dr. M. Mani Chacko for inviting the Auxiliary Team to celebrate the Pearl Jubilee of the Day of Prayer of United Bible Societies, at Logos on May 10, 2013. Our President - Rev Dr P NS Chandra Bose delivered God's message. We were blessed by the message and the fellowship of our Central Office colleagues.

Project Round Table 2013

We had the joy of serving as Volunteers along with our Central Office colleagues during June 2013. It was a good exposure for us, meeting with the UBS family. We are thankful to our GS

and Director (Translations) for giving us this privilege.

KOLKATA

By Mr. Sajal Kumar Sarkar

Auxiliary Secretary

Bible Exhibition-cum-Sale

The Annual Bible Exhibition-cum-Sale of the Auxiliary was held from the 3rd to the 7th September, 2012 at the Bible House. The exhibition was inaugurated

by Pastor Asis Sarkar, Hon. Treasurer of the Auxiliary Committee, after a brief time of prayer and singing on the street in front of the Bible House. The exhibition draws the attention of many including those who pass by the Bible House. Many bought Bibles and other Christian literature that we had displayed. We thank God for all of them and for those who made enquiries about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Activities of the Exhibition-cum-Sale



A Day with the Bible

Inspired by the impact of the “A Day with the Bible” celebration, held annually by the Auxiliary, on the first of May, at the Buntain Memorial Church of the Assembly of God, in Kolkata, the Siliguri Branch of the Auxiliary has also started to celebrate “A Day with the Bible” since 2011. On October 2, 2012, they celebrated a “Day with the Bible” at the Diocesan House, Siliguri. Churches from Siliguri and surrounding areas participated in the celebration. Rev. Mathias Subba from Kalimpong delivered the message. On behalf of the Auxiliary Committee, Rev. Sukhendu Biswas, Vice President, welcomed the congregation and challenged them to distribute the Bibles and encourage people to engage with the Bible.

Youth Seminar

The Annual Youth Seminar was organised and conducted by the Youth Committee of the Auxiliary on October 2, 2012 in the Bible House premises. It was a joy and encouragement to see hundreds of young people, from various Church denominations participating in the seminar. Pastor Nilav Koley of the Calcutta Christian Fellowship and Ms Beena Nathan encouraged the young people with the message. It was my privilege to give the closing challenge message and

Activities of ‘A Day with the Bible’



Activities of Youth Seminar



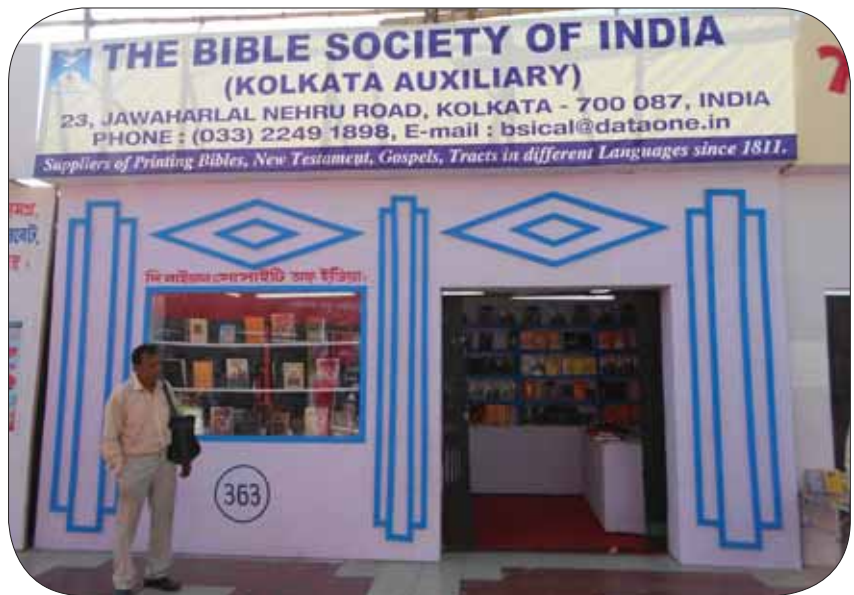
the young people responded in obedience to God to follow the Lord Jesus Christ more dearly and to support the Bible Cause.

Book Fair

The Kolkata International Book Fair was held from the 25th January to the 10th February, 2013. The Auxiliary Team had the privilege of putting up a stall. Thousands of visitors were able to visit the BSI book stall and enjoy looking at a wide variety of Bibles and other helpful Christian literature. We thank God that they could visit our stall and even buy not only Bibles but also other books that were displayed.

Thanksgiving Service & AGM

The Thanksgiving Service and Annual General Meeting of the Auxiliary were held on February 16, 2013, at the Bible House. The Rt. Revd. Ashoke Biswas, President of the Kolkata Auxiliary, and the Bishop of the Calcutta diocese of the Church of North India, gave the presidential address, and gave the clarion call to the leaders and members, in order to pray for the BSI and support the Bible Cause. He made a special appeal to all to make a donation and raise funds for the renovation work of the Bible House. Rev. Patrick Joseph, Associate Pastor of Assembly of God Church ministered among and inspired us to love the Lord and obey Him.



Book Fair

Easter 2013 in Kolkata

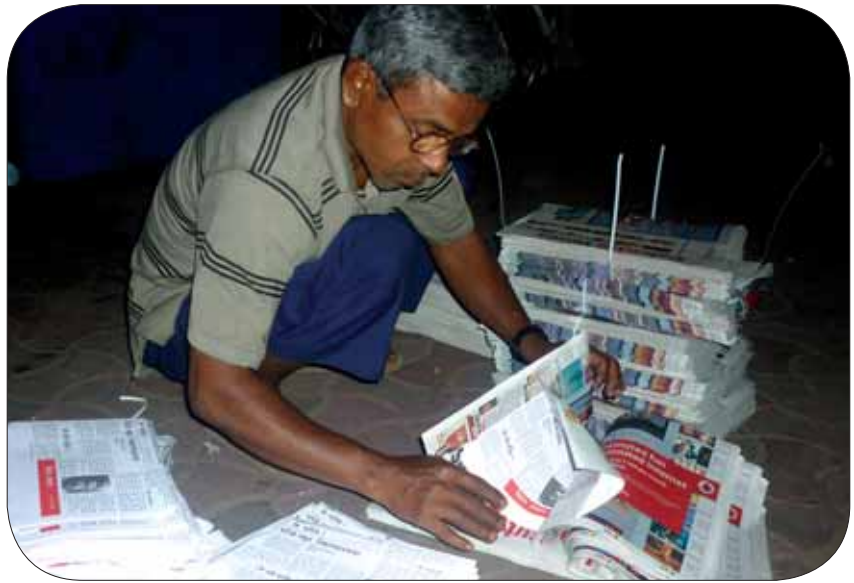
The Easter celebration on 31st March 2013 in Kolkata was unique! One of Kolkata's premier newspapers, through its "News Supplement" featured an article of the Resurrection Sunday of our Lord Jesus Christ. Becoming relevant to the context, the Auxiliary, the India Campus Crusade for Christ and other Churches jointly distributed about 30,000 copies of the "News Supplement" to about 20,000 families in the city. There was an overwhelming response to this act of kindness, as we received letters from many people showing their eagerness to know the Lord Jesus Christ.

MUMBAI

By Rev. Dr. Victor Gollapalli
Auxiliary Secretary

Bicentenary Celebration & Thanksgiving Service

The Mumbai Auxiliary completed 200 years of its services to the nation on June 13, 2013. A Bible rally/ procession was organised with the permission of the Police Department, on the 13th June 2013. The rally/ procession comprised of more than 2000 people of all age groups, different Churches had their Church names were printed on the banners. Some even included the Bible verses. It was a wonderful sight! The songs



News Supplement being sorted out



Christian Leaders in Mumbai

of praise session was led by the Gospel Singers - A.E. Daniel and Shreya Anil Kant. While the Salvation Army beat their drums and played various hymns and the girls from Sion Home played and danced with trembles. Noted film star, Johnny Lever, also participated in the "Joyous March" that reached St. Thomas Cathedral at 6.30p.m.

The Thanksgiving service at St. Thomas Cathedral was packed to its capacity. The Salvation Army played melodious tunes as everyone settled. Then the service procession leading with the cross bearer, choir team, Clergy, The Rt. Revd. Prakash D. Patole, Auxiliary President (Bishop of the Bombay Diocese of the Church of North India), Rev. Avinash Rangaiyya, Presbyterian-In-Charge of St. Thomas Cathedral (CNI) and I entered the Church. The President welcomed the gathering and the choir led the congregation with singing of hymns. The Scriptures were read in English and Marathi. Pastor Joseph, Founder of the New Life Fellowship greeted the gathering. Dr. Augustine Pinto of Ryan International School inaugurated the Bombay Auxiliary website (www.bsi-bombayauxiliary.com). Thereafter, I gave a brief presentation about the Mission and Ministry of the Bible Society of India. Film Star, Brother



Johnny Lever gave a brief testimony. The Thanksgiving Service concluded with a closing hymn, prayer and benediction, followed by snacks to all those who were present at this event.

This event drew the attention of the public as 'Hindustan Times' dated June 10, 2013, wrote an article under the caption "Bible Society marks 200 years of Indian language holy books", while another prominent News Daily "Afternoon" dated June 15, 2013, covered the joyous march from the Auxiliary Premises to St. Thomas Cathedral under the title "A Joyous Morcha..!"



Bible Society marks 200 years of Indian language holy books

HT Correspondent
hometo@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: The Mumbai branch of the Bible Society of India (BSI) will observe its bicentennial this week. The group's primary job was to translate the Bible into Indian languages, but in the process, translators contributed substantially to the standardisation of scripts and vocabularies too. The BSI came to Kolkata in 1811 and a branch was established in Mumbai two years later.

The process of translation was usually long. Before translating the Bible into Gujarati, for instance, the translators spent 468 hours over 78 sessions to list the Gujarati equivalent of each word found in the Bible.

Prominent Indian scholars were involved in the translation

INDIA'S TESTAMENTS

1388: John Wycliffe first translated the Bible into English

1804: British Bible Society and Foreign Bible Society formed

June 13, 1813: The Bombay branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society established at city's first Protestant church, later named St Thomas Church (now cathedral)

1866: Translation in Pawri Rathwa, a language spoken in the Satpura Mountains.

process. Among important translators of the Marathi Bible in the early twentieth century were Pandita Ramabai and Raobahadur Athavle.

"During the process of translating the Bible into Indian languages, the translators contributed to the standardisation of their scripts, grammar and spellings," said Rev Dr Victor Gollapalli, secretary of the Mumbai unit of the BSI.

A book brought out to mark the bicentennial, called 'Advancing the glory of god', written by Dr MD David, reports that Hormusji Pestonji, a member of the Gujarati Bible Revision Committee, wrote in 1848 that he read the scriptures in Gujarati and English together, in order to learn the foreign language.

The BSI has published complete versions of the Bible in 66 Indian languages and portions of the book in 67 languages.



The Bible Society of India, Bombay Auxiliary, celebrated its bicentennial on Thursday with a rally and prayer meeting in Fort

A Joyous Morcha..!

CROWDS rushing home from the historic Ballard Estate in Mumbai, the grim faced commuters in the buses, the urchins on the road, as also the shoeshine boys soliciting business looked puzzled, confused: They were used to morchas, processions that agitated for a cause, protested against some atrocities, they were used to anger on faces, venom spouted, but never had they seen a joyous morcha on the busy roads of Mumbai!

Never!

What a scene, what a joyous gathering of thousands winding their way from the Bible Society office opposite VT station, singing, dancing, praising God, smiling at passersby with the love of Jesus writ on their faces. What a picture I beheld, as I solemn faced, a little reluctant at first to join in found the 'God mood' contagious, joined in the singing and laughing, and joyousness that only a God above could have instilled into the 'morcha' on the 13th of June, two days ago.

Two hundred years ago, on the same 13th in the month of June, the Bible Society had been formed in Mumbai, with the purpose of spreading the good news to all the people in the city. Many moons later and with hundreds of translations in different languages done, and with millions of the Good Book distributed the society was doing a victory march for God.

« BOB'S BANTER »

Robert Clements

'Lord we need the rains!' they'd prayed, 'the fields are parched, there's a drought in the state, but don't let a drop fall on the rally!'

It rained, when the people waited outside, it rained when the music truck with giant speakers arrived, it rained where the farmers needed the rain, but not a drop fell when

joyous morcha wielded its way to the St Thomas Cathedral.

A man came to me while I was walking, "will you pray for me?" he asked. I had never prayed on the roads before, but suddenly I did not hesitate, 'Faithful God,' I said, "Take care of this gentleman who says he needs prayer!" I felt a peace, the peace of the One above descending on both of us.

It was incredible; there was a sense of joy, it spread from the happy morcha makers, into the buses, where suddenly commuters smiled, onto bystanders, whose faces too broke out in grins, onto the urchins on the road, who looked at each other and clapped their hands with glee, and even the busy shoeshine boys gave an extra shine for a God who'd made a hurried, rushing, 'catching a train and getting back home' evening into a whole canopy of contagious exultation.

Thank you Bible Society, thank you Rev Victor, for spreading Jesus joy through a 'morcha', in the city of Mumbai..!

— bobsbanter@gmail.com

Telugu Holy Bible Convention

A 3-day 'Telugu Holy Bible Convention' was organized as part of the Bicentenary celebration of the Bombay Auxiliary from the 12th to the 14th April 2013 at St. Mary, The Virgin Church of the Bombay Diocese of the Church of North India. Pastor M. Vedanayakam, an evangelist from Andhra Pradesh, ministered among us during this convention, which was a blessing to all.

Pastor A. E. Daniel and his group led the gathering of more than 2000 people in a special time of praise and adoration, with Hindi and Telugu songs and hymns. Special numbers from Bhajan Sanhita Volume 2 were sung by Mr. Sunil Pawar, Marketing Assistant.

It was my privilege to make a video presentation titled, 'The Bible Society of India, Bombay Auxiliary promoting the Bible Society ministry'. On Sunday, the 14th April 2013, Bro. P. M. K. Naveen Kumar, our nation's greatest flautist, played the flute and blessed the people.

Powerful message from the Word of God was delivered by Pastor M. Vedanayakam on all the three days. He emphasized on the power of God and the importance of the Bible, the Word of God. God touched many people and they requested for special prayers.

Conference for Telugu speaking Pastors and Church Leaders

A conference for Telugu speaking Pastors and Church Leaders was also organized on Saturday, the 13th April 2013 from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at St. Mary's Church, Parel. Over 100 pastors and church leaders attended this convention. Pastor M. Vedanayakam gave a challenging message and reminded all to remain faithful in His service. I presented the 200-years journey of the Bible Society of India, Bombay Auxiliary.

Exhibition-cum-Sale of the BSI products was organized at the entrance of this venue, which attracted many viewers and buyers.

On this special occasion, we honored the Telugu Pastors with Mementos. Special thanks and Mementos were also given to the speaker, Pastor M. Vedanayakam, Rev. John Shatananda (Presbyter-In-Charge, St. Mary's Church) and many Telugu speaking servants of God.

ESV®

English Standard Version

the Bible for Life.™



ESV REGULAR
Rs. 150/-



ESV COMPACT
Rs. 120/-

The BIBLE

For Your Copies & Please Contact:

THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF INDIA

206, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560 001
Email: bsico@vsnl.com,
biblemarketing5@gmail.com
Phone: +91-80-41124714 or 715

NORTH WEST INDIA

By Mr. Richard G. Khan

Sr. Auxiliary Secretary

First Christmas Fellowship Dinner

The First Christmas Fellowship Dinner was organized by the Auxiliary with the help of North East Churches Branch on 15th December 2012 at the Bible House. It was well attended by the Leaders. Mr. Luaha Renthlei, Hon. President, North East Churches Branch of the Bible Society of India, welcomed the gathering and Rev. Col. R.M. Darkim offered the opening prayer. Rev. Theodore Shimray and his team, made the praise and singing session very meaningful. Mr. Rajender Lal, Assistant Manager, Marketing, shared briefly about the North East Churches Branch in Delhi area.

Dr. Evelyn rendered a special song. Rev. Dr. V. Laldingliana delivered an inspiring Christmas message. The special Planner 2013 was dedicated and a special offering was taken. Special Carol in Hindi was presented by Pastor Lydha Sangma, Pastor of Delhi Achik Fellowship. I had the joy of sharing about the Diamond Jubilee celebration of the Auxiliary, and expressed gratitude to the leaders for their support. The event

Activities of the Christmas Event



concluded with a special dinner on the beautiful lawns of the Bible House.

ODISHA

By Rev. Dr. Ashish Patro

Auxiliary Secretary

30th Anniversary of UBS Day of Prayer

We celebrated this on May 10, 2013 at the Bible House in Cuttack, with fifty faithful praying friends of the Auxiliary. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Samson Das, Auxiliary Secretary In-Charge opened the meeting with prayer. Mr. Biren Kumar Gan led us in singing songs of praise. After Mr. Lawrence Bikash Pradhan read the Bible text, Bishop Samson Das delivered God's message encouraging all to become prayer warriors.

The participants included Pastors, Lay Leaders and Bible Women. They spent time praying for various prayer requests that were forwarded to us from Resource Mobilisation and Ministry Department (now RM & CRD). Bishop Samson Das concluded the meeting with prayer and benediction, which was followed by fellowship high-tea.



The NWI Christmas Event: Part of the Gathering

RANCHI

By Mrs. Soma Bhatkar

Auxiliary Secretary

Pearl Jubilee Celebration

We observed the Pearl Jubilee Celebration of the UBS Day of Prayer on May 9, 2013, with the guidance and help of the Resource Mobilisation and Ministry Department of the BSI. We spent time in praise and prayer on behalf of UBS and BSI. Our Project Volunteers also prayed for these items in their respective places.

SHILLONG

By Rev. Phidolis Dkhar

Auxiliary Secretary

Church Leaders' Consultation

The Church Leaders' Consultation was held on May 25, 2013 and 150 Church leaders from various denominations participated in it. Rev. G.D.V. Prasad, Director (PRD and AVM) was the main speaker. It was noted that the Presbyterian and Church of God congregations have been of great support to the Auxiliary. We thank



Rev. G.D.V. Prasad speaking about the power of God's Word

God that the Evangelical Free Church of India, with whom a relationship was established during the visit of Dr. Miss E. Leelavathi Manasseh, Director (RM & M) earlier, and with her help continued to sustain it, assured us during this consultation that they would associate with the Auxiliary.

Youth Meeting

We conducted a Youth meeting inviting young people from all Church denominations in the city of Shillong. We ministered among them and they dedicated themselves to the Lord and for His service.

TAMIL NADU

By Rev. Moses Davadason

Auxiliary Secretary

Thanksgiving Service and Release of Souvenir

Around 100 people participated in this meeting that was held on the 11th June 2013 in Chennai. The Rt. Rev. Dr. A. Rajavelu, Vice President of BSI Tamil Nadu Auxiliary and Bishop of the Vellore Diocese of the Church of South India presided over the meeting. The Auxiliary Secretary in-charge, Mr. C. Jacob Sumithran extended a warm welcome to the participants in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and thanked for their presence.



The Church Leaders



The young people in action

The General Secretary, Rev. Dr. M. Mani Chacko gave an introduction "How the Bible Society came into existence", with the story of Mary Jones, a little Welsh girl who became the reason for the formation of the British and Foreign Bible Society (BFBS), and how the BFBS started the Bible Society of India. He then released the BSI Tamil Nadu Auxiliary's Souvenir and the first copy of the Souvenir was received by Prof. C. Balasingh, the Senior Branch Officer of the Nagercoil Branch of the Tamil Nadu Auxiliary of the Bible Society of India.

After a brief introduction by Dr. P.I. Varghese, Director (Marketing) about the new edition of Tamil Study Bible, The Rt. Rev. Dr. A. Rajavelu released the first copy of the new edition of the Tamil Study Bible and this was sold at our Bible Exhibition held from the 11th to the 14th May 2013 at Chennai.

The Lutheran Men's Voice Choir conducted by Dr. Prabhu Dorairaj gave two special items. The Commissioner M.Y Emmanuel, Territorial Commander, Salvation Army read a portion from the Word

of God. The Rev. A. Abraham Thomas, Senior Pastor of Assemblies of God Church and Vice President of BSI Tamil Nadu Auxiliary delivered God's message from the Word of God based on Luke 17: 15 -19 as to how out of ten lepers only one leper returned and gave thanks to the Lord. He exhorted us saying that we should always be thankful to the Lord, as the one leper who experienced healing, returned to give thanks to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Prof. D. Thangaraj, Branch Secretary of the Perumalpuram Branch of the Auxiliary, prayed for the marvellous work done by the Bible Society of India through Translation, Production and Distribution of the Word of God, as well as Scripture Engagement, particularly for the BSI Tamil Nadu Auxiliary. Singing during this event, was led by Mr. Rajivan David at the Key Board accompanied by Violin.

After the Auxiliary Secretary In-Charge, Mr. C. Jacob Sumitran proposed the vote of thanks, the meeting came to a close with prayer and benediction offered by the Auxiliary Vice President, The Rt. Rev. Dr. A. Rajavelu, Bishop of the Vellore Diocese of Church of South India.

Installation Service of New Auxiliary Secretary

The Installation Service of the newly appointed Auxiliary



Rev. Dr. M. Mani Chacko welcoming and honouring Bishop, Ezra Sargunam at the Installation Service

Secretary, Rev. M. Moses Devadason, was held at the E.C.I Hope Church, Rajaji Nagar, Villivakkam, Chennai on Sunday, the 14th July 2013.

The BSI General Secretary, Rev. Dr. M. Mani Chacko announced the appointment of the new Auxiliary Secretary by reading the resolution of the BSI Executive Committee. After reading the profile of Rev. P. Moses Devadason, he presented him to the

congregation, in the presence of the Tamil Nadu Auxiliary Vice President, The Most Rev. Dr. Ezra Sargunam, Bishop-President, Evangelical Churches of India. Rev. Dr. M. Mani Chacko delivered God's message based on Exodus, Chapter 3:1-6 "The Call of Moses", a very appropriate word of exhortation to leaders.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the BSI Tamil



Rev. Dr. M. Mani Chacko presenting the candidate before the congregation

Nadu Auxiliary, the Vice President, The Most Rev. Dr. M. Ezra Sargunam installed Rev. P. Moses Devadason into the office of the Auxiliary Secretary of the Tamil Nadu Auxiliary and blessed him.

Induction Service of Rev. M. Moses Devadason

On Monday, the 15th July 2013, the General Secretary, Rev. Dr. M. Mani Chacko inducted Rev. P. Moses Davadason into the office of the Auxiliary Secretary at the Tamil Nadu Auxiliary's office. He delivered God's message encouraging one and all to give importance to relationship - with God and one another, in fulfilling the responsibility in the Auxiliary.

Sales Depot in Port Blair

By Mr. Sajal Kumar Sarkar
In-Charge

We continue to thank the Churches in Andaman Nicobar Islands for their prayers and support. Please continue to pray for those who buy Bibles and Christian literature from our Sales Depot, that they will be blessed.



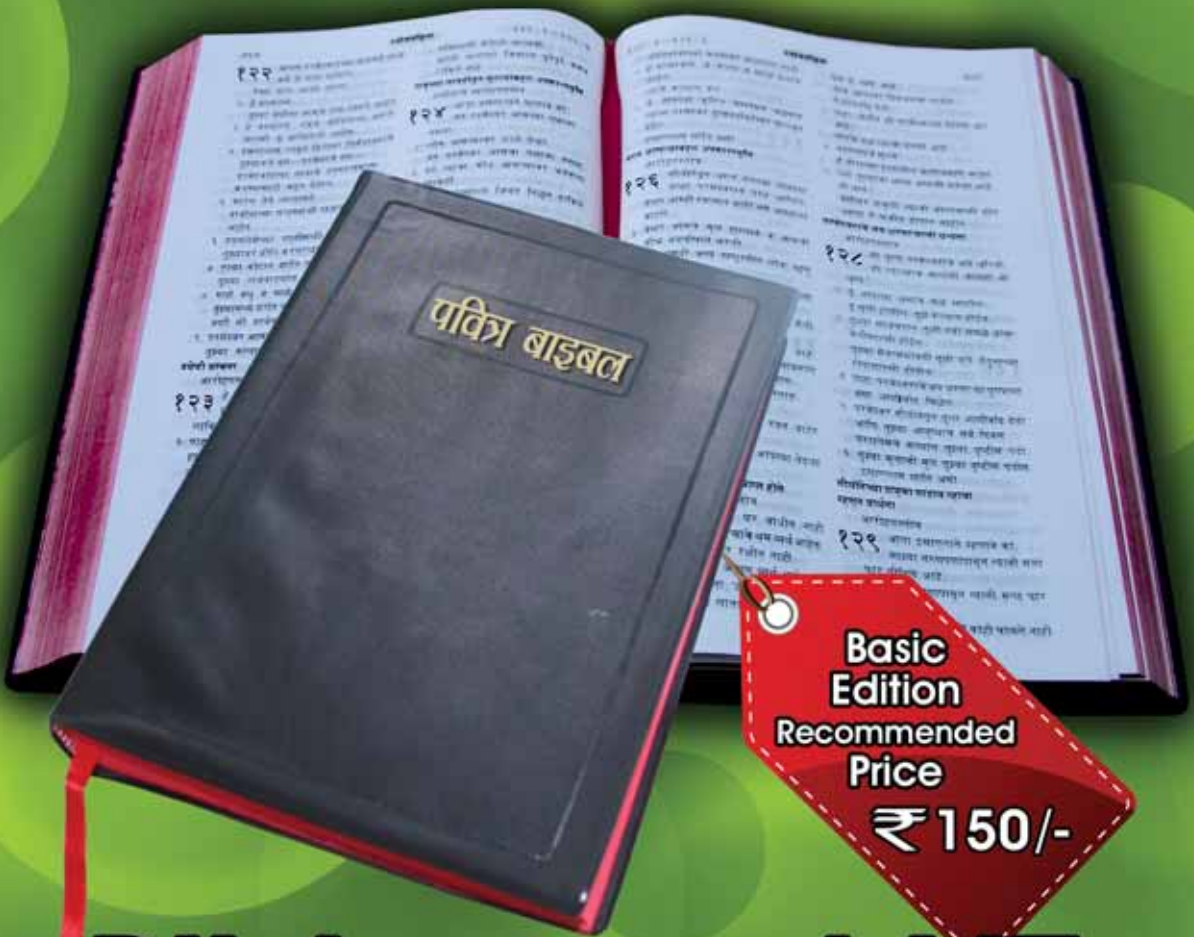
Rev. Dr. M. Mani Chacko presenting the candidate before the congregation



The Most Rev. Dr. M. Ezra Sargunam and Rev. Dr. M. Mani Chacko installing the new Auxiliary Secretary, Rev. P. Moses Davadason



The New Auxiliary Secretary, Rev. P. Moses's response



Bibles and NTs

Available in all Indian Languages

*For Your Copies &
Trade Enquiries Please Contact:*



THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF INDIA

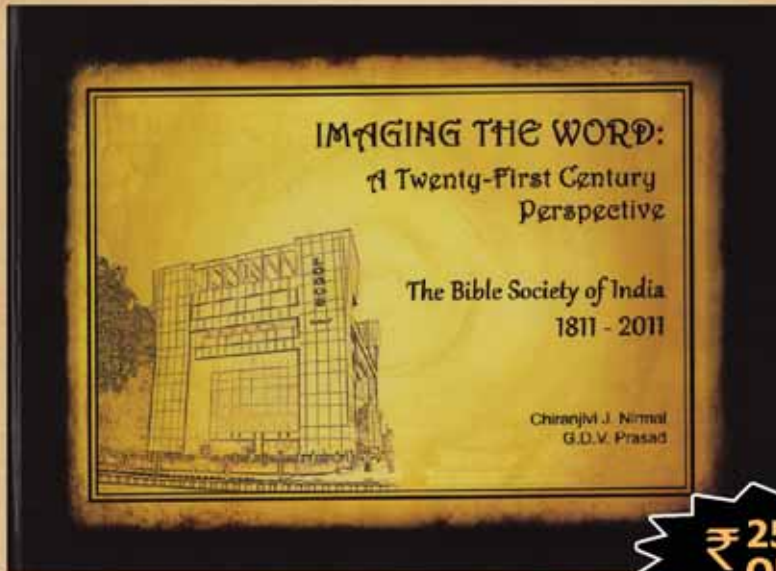
MARKETING DEPARTMENT

206, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560 001, INDIA,

Email: bsico@vsnl.com, biblemarketing5@gmail.com

Phone: +91-80-41124714 or 715





HISTORY OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF INDIA

A brief history of how
BSI has strived to be the provider of
God's Word
to the whole of the Indian people
in the last 200 years

For Your Copies Please Contact:



THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF INDIA

206, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560 001, INDIA,
Email: bsico@vsnl.com Phone: +91-80-41124714 or 715

PRAYER MOBILISATION NETWORK

By Rev. Dr. B.K. Pattnaik

We are glad to share with you that the BSI Executive Committee formed the National Committee on Resource Mobilisation and Church Relations Department at its meeting held during 2013. The Composition of the Committee, as formed by the Executive Committee of the Bible Society of India is as below:

The Revd. Dr. M. Mani Chacko (Ex-Officio), Dr. Miss E. Leelavathi Manasseh (Convener), The Revd. Dr. Bijoy Kumar Pattnaik, Prof. Balasingh, Mr. I. William Paul, Dr. Miss Palak E. Singh, Mr.

John Thomas and Mr. Lincoln F. Christian

The first meeting of the Committee was convened at the BSI Central Office, Logos on July 8, 2013. During the committee meeting when we suggested to the General Secretary and the Director (RM & CRD), that we mobilise prayer for the Bible Society of India, at the national level by inserting a simple and easy Prayer Calendar in the Sowing Circle, they received the suggestion with gladness and gratitude. Hence we find this section 'Prayer Calendar' in the Sowing Circle now.

We are grateful to God for giving us the privilege to intercede for people. In this issue we shall remember what God could do through the former leaders of the Bible Society of India, praise God for them and pray for their families. The list below contains the names and the tenure of former Presidents, General Secretaries and Hon-treasurers of the Bible Society of India. Let us choose any day and time, that may be convenient for us. We are thankful to you for joining the prayer network.

PRESIDENTS:

01. The Rt.Rev V. S. Azariah	1944
02. Dewan Bahadur K. Mathan	1945 – 1951
03. The Rt. Rev. C. K. Jacob	1951 – 1957
04 Mr. J. S. S. Malelu	1958 – 1965
05. The Most Rev. H. L. J. De Mel	1965 – 1971
06. The Most Rev. Eric S. Nasir (Interim)	1971 – 1972
07. The Most Rev. Dr. Alexander Mar Thoma	1972 – 1982
08. The Most Rev. Dr. R. S. Bhandare	1982 – 1988
09. The Most Rev. Dr. P. Victor Premasagar	1988 – 1994
10. Prof R.V. Kant (Acting)	1993 – 1994
11. The Rev. Dr. Robert R. Cunville	1994 – 2000
12. The Most Rev. Dr. K. J. Samuel	2000 – 2006
13. Dr. (Mrs.) Navamani E. Peter	2007 – 2012

GENERAL SECRETARIES:

01. The Rev. J. S. M. Hooper	1944 – 1947
02. The Rt. Rev. G. Sinker	1947 – 1949
03. Mr. P. Mahanty	1949 – 1958
04. Miss. M. S. Harrison (Acting)	1958 – 1959
05. Rev. W. Park Rankin (Acting)	1959 – 1960
06. The Rev. Dr. A. E. Inbanathan	1960 – 1981
07. Maj Gen O. M. Mani (Hony)	July/Aug 1981
08 Mr. T. Albert Manoraj (Hony)	1981 – 1982
09. Mr. T. John Ramakrishnan (Contract)	1982 – 1985
10. Dr. B. K. Pramanik	1985 – 2011
11 Dr. M. Jesudas (In-Charge)	Jan-Jul 2011

HON. TREASURERS:

01. The Rev. J. S. M. Hooper	1944 – 1947
02. The Rt. Rev. G. Sinker	1947 – 1949
03. Sir. Samuel E. Runganadhan	1949 – 1966
04. Mr. M. L. Bower	1966 – 1972
05. Mr. P. V. Kuruvilla	1972 – 1979
06. Mr. G. D. Kunders	1979 – 1982
07. Mr. John Mathan	1982 – 1985
08. Mr. Thomas M. Varughese	1985 – 1991
09. Mr. B. Mason	1991 – 1992
10. Mr. S. E. Devanur	1992 – 1993
11. Mr. S. S. Williams	1993 – 1997
12. Dr. M. Jesudas	1997 – 2003
13. Dr. Enoch Anthony	2003 – 2009
14. Dr. M. Jesudas	2010 – 2012

(The Revd. Dr. B.K. Pattnaik is the Chairperson of the National Committee on Resource Mobilisation and Church Relations Department of the Bible Society of India)

HYMN STORY AND STUDY

The following hymns, “What a Friend We have in Jesus” by Joseph Scriven and “Sweet Hour of Prayer” by William Walford talk about ‘Prayer’. Let us enjoy these songs during our Family Quiz Time.

- Let us enjoy singing these songs together and drawing implications for us today.
- Let us read the story behind each song and be inspired to continue to lead a meaningful life in all circumstances.
- Let us also read this Sowing Circle issue, to receive what God has in store for each one of us.
- May God help us to pick up the praise and prayer items from this Sowing Circle issue and have a meaningful season of prayer.

A. WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

- 1 What a Friend we have in Jesus,
 All our sins and griefs to bear!
 What a privilege to carry
 Everything to God in prayer!
 O what peace we often forfeit,
 O what needless pain we bear,
 All because we do not carry
 Everything to God in prayer!
2. Have we trials and temptations?
 Is there trouble anywhere?
 We should never be discouraged,
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Can we find a friend so faithful
 Who will all our sorrows share?
 Jesus knows our every weakness,
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.
3. Are we weak and heavy-laden,
 Cumbered with a load of care?
 Precious Saviour, still our refuge—
 Take it to the Lord in prayer;
 Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
 Take it to the Lord in prayer;
 In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
 Thou wilt find a solace there.

Irish born Joseph M. Scriven (1819-1896) was 25 years old, in love and to be married. The day before his wedding his fiancé died in a tragic drowning accident. Heartbroken, Joseph sailed from his homeland to start a new life in Canada. While in Canada working as a teacher, he fell in love again and became engaged to Eliza Roche, a relative of one of his students. Once again, Joseph's hopes and dreams were shattered when Eliza became ill and died before the wedding could take place.

Although one can only imagine the turmoil within this young man, history tells us that his faith in God sustained him. Soon after Eliza's death Joseph joined the Plymouth Brethren and began preaching for a Baptist church. He never married, but spent the remainder of his life giving all his time, money and even the clothes off his own back to help the less fortunate and to spread the love and compassion of Jesus wherever he went.

Around the same time that Eliza died, Joseph received word from Ireland that his mother was ill. He could not go to be with her, so he wrote a letter of comfort and enclosed one of his poems entitled What a Friend We Have in Jesus.

Many years later a friend was sitting with Joseph, as he was very ill. During this visit, the friend was very impressed when he ran across his poems, including What a Friend We Have in Jesus. As a result of this visit, almost 30 years after his letter of comfort to his mother, Joseph's poems were published in a book called Hymns and Other Verses. Soon thereafter, noted musician Charles C. Converse (1834-1918) put music to one of those poems: What a Friend We Have in Jesus.

Well-known musician and revivalist Ira D. Sankey (1840-1908) was a great admirer of Joseph Scriven. In 1875, Sankey came upon the music and words for What a Friend We Have in Jesus. He included it as the last entry into his well-known publication Sankey's Gospel Hymns Number 1.

B. SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER

1. Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!
That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief
And oft escaped the tempter's snare
By Thy return, sweet hour of prayer!
2. Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!
The joys I feel, the bliss I share,
Of those whose anxious spirits burn
With strong desires for Thy return!
With such I hasten to the place
Where God my Saviour shows His face,
And gladly take my station there,
And wait for Thee, sweet hour of prayer!

3. Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!
 Thy wings shall my petition bear
 To Him whose truth and faithfulness
 Engage the waiting soul to bless.
 And since He bids me seek His face,
 Believe His Word and trust His grace,
 I'll cast on Him my every care,
 And wait for Thee, sweet hour of prayer!

4. Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!
 May I Thy consolation share,
 Till, from Mount Pisgah's lofty height,
 I view my home and take my flight:
 This robe of flesh I'll drop and rise
 To seize the everlasting prize;
 And shout, while passing through the air,
 "Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer!"

The composer of this song, William Walford was blind, but this did not make him worthless. On the contrary, as he sat by the fire in his English home in the mid-nineteenth century, his hands kept busy, whittling out useful objects, such as shoehorns. His mind was active, too.

Called on to preach from time to time in a rural English church, he composed sermons in his head to deliver on Sundays. He memorized a huge amount of the Bible which he quoted verbatim in his sermons. Some of his folk thought he had memorized the entire Scripture, cover to cover. William also composed lines of verse. And he prayed.

Thomas Salmon, a New York native, spent some time in Coleshill, Warwickshire, England, where he became acquainted with William. He tells this tale of what happened one day, while he was visiting the blind pastor:

"...He repeated two or three pieces which he had composed, and having no friend at home to commit them to paper, he had laid them up in the storehouse within. "How will this do?" asked he, as he repeated the following lines, with a complacent smile touched with some light lines of fear lest he subject himself to criticism. I rapidly copied the lines with my pencil, as he uttered them, and sent them for insertion in the Observer, if you should think them worthy of preservation."

The Observer did consider them worth preserving, and they were published on this day, September 13, 1845, becoming a beloved hymn.

Beyond the fact that he was blind and the few details recorded by Thomas Salmon, we know little of William Walford. But his hymn has touched hundreds of thousands of lives on both sides of the Atlantic, expressing the genuine joy he found in prayer.

Sources: Taken from the Website: www.squidoo.com/what-a-friend-we-have-in-jesus
 "Sweet Hour of Prayer." <http://www.cyberhymnal.org>

(Prepared by BSI Volunteers: Mrs. Veda Selvakumar, Mrs. Shirley Methilda and Miss Priyadarshini)

**New
Arrival !!!**

MALAYALAM PERSONAL SIZE SLIM EDITION



**₹ 400/-
ONLY**

For Your Copies & Trade Enquiries Please Contact:



THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF INDIA

206, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560 001, INDIA, Email: bsico@vsnl.com, Phone: +91-80-41124714 or 715

Kerala Auxiliary

Bible House, Bible Society Junction, Kottayam-686 001, KERALA E-mail: bibleker@sancharnet.in,

Phone: +91-0481-2561800

LIFE UNLIMITED FOR TODAY'S YOUNG WOMAN

VASHTI

WOMAN
www.vashtimagazine.in



Annual
Subscription for
6 issues
Rs. 300/-

Cover Story
Natasha Chandy

A
Magazine
with a
difference
for the
whole
family,
— Bible
based
addressing
today's
issues

A Value-based Magazine

Marketed By:



THE BOOK ROOM

(A UNIT OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF INDIA)

No. 2, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bangalore-560 001 INDIA

Phone: +91-22223813, 22223814, 41325952

Email: bookroomgr@gmail.com, bsibookroom@gmail.com

ALSO AVAILABLE: All The Bible Society of India Auxiliary offices across the country

GOD'S WORD FOR DAILY STRENGTH & INSIGHTS FOR SUCCESS **TABLE TOP CALENDER...**



...that can be used year after year !!!

For Your Copies & Trade Enquiries Please Contact:



THE BOOK ROOM

(A UNIT OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF INDIA)

#2, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560 001 INDIA

Email: bsibookroom@gmail.com Phone: +91-80-22223813-14, 41325952