

## From The Editor's Desk - PRAYER AND PRAISE

In this Edition we want to focus on the production of the BES Resources both in English and in other languages. Despite the fact that we commenced re-writing and editing the Bibletime lessons nearly 30 years ago, we are still finding ways in which the lessons can be improved. There have been two complete re-designs since the initial lessons were written all those years ago. Increasing numbers of people are involved in the production of BES Resources. We give thanks for all those who give time to this work recognising the need for prayer as we try to get the lessons for various age groups accurate in the particular language and also Biblically correct. It is now almost impossible to tell how many lessons are being used each month. If we add together all the lessons

that we know are being printed in different languages, together with those printed from the Website, photocopied and with various other local printers, there are up to 200,000 lessons being used by students around the world each month! We praise God for this! We are so thankful that the seed is being sown so widely.

Our Editorial Group are working on two new Projects which are currently taking a lot of time and for which we value particular prayer. The Postal Bible School Centres have been asking for Level 0 Lessons for Pre-School children and we launched the first lessons in January for the A Series. These are now being trialled and used quite widely for this age group. In each lesson there is a simple task which they can do with adult guidance. We are finding that writing these lessons is quite a challenge and we are grateful to those who are helping.

We are also aware that Bibletime lessons are being used in Churches and in Schools, particularly in Africa and India. Teachers will introduce the lesson's subject and then the Bibletime lessons are used as a work sheet. For some time we have felt that there is a need for Teacher Guidelines to introduce each lesson, we have started on a Project to produce Teacher Guidelines initially for Levels 1 & 2 but eventually we hope also for Levels 3 & 4. This is a very big Project and the small Team involved would value prayer for wisdom and guidance as to the best way of moving it forward. If these Guidelines are eventually translated into other languages they could have a massive influence on the teaching of Scripture right across the world.

**Stephen Gillham** (Secretary)

By the end of 2012 we estimated that **200,000 children**  
were doing BES courses every month. We have received enough orders for 2013  
for this number to increase to  
**2,000,000 children!**



## UK Editing

**Stephen Gillham & Team** - Every two months we edit the Bibletime lessons in the four original Levels, the new Level 0 lessons, the two months of the Gleaners lessons and two months of The New Life Bible Study Course. In total, every two months, 96 lessons have to be checked carefully, the design checked and corrected as necessary and then the final proof. Additionally, we are half way through a Project of re-designing all the English Bibletime lessons into a booklet format for Africa and India. The A series was completed last year and the whole of the B Series will be done later this year. It is a long and slow process but it does mean that there will eventually be six booklets produced for each of the 5 levels.

We are so grateful for the help that Liza and Hazel McMeekin, Rosemary Hall, Sarah Walls, Matt Balmer, Stevie Walls and Grace Goulding give to this work.



**Introducing the new Bibletime booklets and Level 0 lessons!**

## Translation

BES Teams are actively translating some or all of the resources in a total of 29 languages, 12 of which are in the top twenty most spoken languages in the world. Please pray that God would open the door to other languages in the top 20. Where there is a need in a country or language group, BES will seek to help financially in encouraging or supporting translation and graphic design in these languages. BES are indebted to so many groups who carry out this vital work for the Lord.

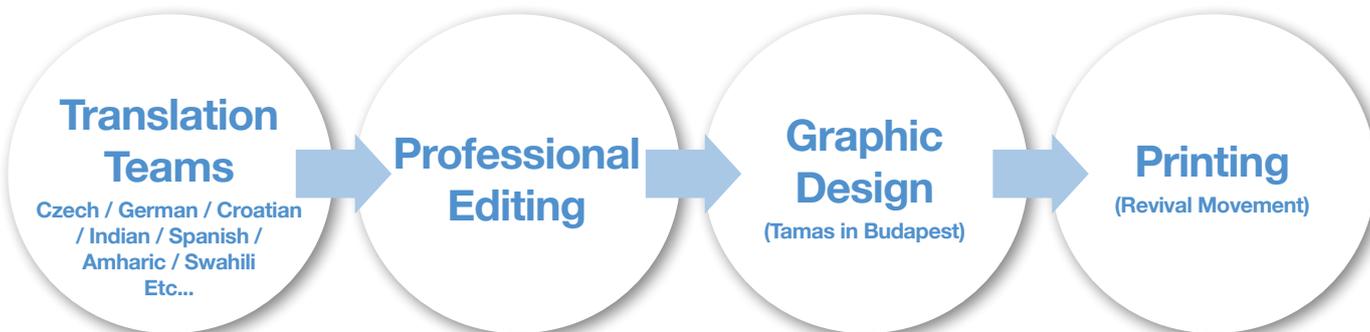
**Culture** - one of the challenges in translation and graphic design layout of Bibletime is contextualising the lessons culturally. This is why all of the BES Translation Teams are led by people for whom it is their first language. They know the language and culture, and can adapt the lessons accordingly. Although the Biblical content is carefully maintained, there is a need for clear explanation of Biblical principles.

**Resource** - In the Bibletime Syllabus there is now a total of 790 Stories in five Levels from Level 0 to Level 4. Each of these Levels have a Starter Series covering 14 weeks, and a main

Syllabus covering 144 weeks. This has the potential for a weekly lesson to be completed by a child from age three to eighteen.

**People** – The translation could not happen if it wasn't for dedicated believers who are committed to translate, edit, check and recheck their work. It can be painfully slow and it may be years before the lessons are in use. Please pray for these individuals and Teams, that God would guide and encourage them in their ministry for Him.

## Lesson Production Workflow...



## French



Some of the French Translation Team

The translation into French commenced in 2007 after Sam Balmer visited Nantes in France with a team of young people from Ireland who were there for outreach. William and Liz Irwin introduced Sam to Annick who worked on the translation as and when she could.

The following year Sam received an email from Dorcas, a French believer, who wanted her nephew to attend a PBS camp to improve his English. Edward came to a PBS camp in Fermanagh for two weeks, and on returning to France he told Dorcas about the lessons being translated into French. Dorcas contacted Sam to see if she could help. Soon a meeting was arranged in Nantes and God brought a Translation Team together. Now Dorcas, Dorothy Seed, Margaret Olivier, Miriam, Sophie, Charlotte and others have all been helping in various ways to make the Bibletime lessons available in French. The French Team are looking for a native French speaker to help with the translation of Level 4. Please pray that the right person will come forward.

As the translation process can be slow and with no end result of usage imminent, the Team could have been discouraged. In this case God was ahead of us!

At our International Conference in 2011 a brother from the Ivory Coast showed an interest in French lessons. In 2012 two brothers from Congo were keen to use French Bibletime Lessons in primary schools. Now in 2013 the Revival Movement are hoping to print approximately 500,000 booklets in French, that can be used in these countries to reach children with the Gospel. We praise God for His work. It is also hoped that the A series in French will be on the BES website shortly for French-speaking children throughout the world.

**Habakkuk 2: 3** - "For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end - it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay."

## Graphic Design

Once the Translation Teams have translated the lessons and have had the translation proof-read, the next task is to design the lessons. This means that all lessons, in whatever language they are designed are similar and use standard lesson templates. The English and American lessons and the English Booklets for Africa are designed by Steve McDonald (Cardiff) who has been designing the lessons for BES for a number of years, he works at least three days a week for BES. Tamas Bozsoki in Budapest, works full-time for BES. He has already done all the designing for the A Series French lessons, and is working on the Amharic and Swahili Booklets, and revising the Ukrainian and Russian lessons into the new design format. He is responsible for the Hungarian lessons and supports the Design Teams in Italy and Turkey. Steve and Tamas play an absolutely vital part in the work of BES and many are dependent upon their skills in design work. Without their involvement the design work would not be able to progress in the way that it does. Pray for God's provision for the funds for the two designers. Pray that God will give them wisdom and help in their daily work and in their contact with the Translation Teams around the world.

Once the lessons have been designed into the BES format, the Translation Team have proof readers who check very carefully and usually there is further revision before the lessons are prepared for printing. As has been indicated, BES is dependent upon the Revival Movement for printing lessons in a number of languages, particularly for Africa, India and Romania. Other BES International Centres are responsible for their own printing.

## Printing

Every two months BES arrange the printing, counting, packing and dispatch of the English Bibletime/New Life Bible Study Course and Gleaners lessons for the next two months to be used in the UK & Ireland. All of the Postal Bible School Centres are responsible for the cost of their lessons, postage and prizes. Pray for the Lord's continued provision. BES do not fund the printing in any country except

## The Translation Teams



## Croatia



## Czech Republic



## Ethiopia



## Tanzania



## Germany

as well as many other countries.

via designated gifts, this is why the Revival Movement ([www.revivalmovement.org](http://www.revivalmovement.org)) are crucial in our ministry, reaching the rising generations. Up to the end of 2012 the Revival Movement had printed for BES in English and Romanian a total of 3.4 million A4 lessons and 534,000 booklets (equivalent to 3.2 million A4 lessons). This totals 84 tonnes of paper at a cost of approx £161,706.

In 2013 we have made a request to the Revival Movement for 3.7 million booklets printed in English, French, Tamil, Telegu, Hindi, Malayalam and 559,000 A4 lessons in Romanian with an approximate associated cost of £460,000. BES are so grateful for the many Revival Movement supporters who make this great work possible.

Praise God for this amazing provision and continue to pray for the Lord's provision in relation to the Revival Movement. If you wish further details or you have a desire to help with any of these Projects then please contact Sam Balmer at [sam@besweb.org](mailto:sam@besweb.org) or Samuel Adams at [samuel@revivalmovement.org](mailto:samuel@revivalmovement.org)



Lessons waiting to be shipped from Revival Movement

## Website

We are in the process of redeveloping our website. The reason for doing this is firstly to make it easier for us to add new language resources as they are translated, and secondly to make it more user friendly for people to search for and locate the lessons they require. We hope to launch this within the next few weeks on [www.besweb.com](http://www.besweb.com). For regular updates please 'like' our facebook page - [www.facebook.com/pages/Bible-Educational-Services/228707800476692](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bible-Educational-Services/228707800476692)

## Online Lessons

For some time we have been working with a team of developers in Russia, headed up by Nikolay Abkairov, to look at developing an online version of the Bibletime syllabus. People have been asking us when our lessons will be available online, and we do apologise for taking so long. The reason for this is that we really want to take full advantage of the opportunities and functionality that the internet affords the team. The aim is to use cutting edge technology to produce a resource that will be fun, educational, and engaging for children who are used to playing computer games. Ultimately we want this Project to give glory to God. We still do not have a release date but we do value your prayers and support for this exciting project.

## PBS Centres UK & Ireland Conference Day

It is sometime since we had a get together of the Postal Bible School Centres and there has been a request for such a Conference Day which is now planned for Saturday June 15th 10.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. at Swan Lane Gospel Hall, Claytonwood Road, Trent Vale, Stoke on Trent ST4 6LB. During the day there will be reports, discussions and seminars. We are inviting all those who are involved in Postal Bible School work in any way in this country. The meeting will be open for anyone but for catering arrangements and further information contact Stephen Gillham at 01202 873500,



THE ADVISORY GROUP - BES Trustees, Sam Balmer, Stephen Gillham, Glyn Davies, David Tucker and Stevie Walls - also attending Designers Steve McDonald, Tamas Bozsoki, BES Ambassador Bert Gray, Noel McMeekin (Representing Irish PBS) DJ Watts (Representing the UK PBS Centres), Nigel McQuoid (Representing Echoes of Service), Jill Silverthorn (Education), Andreas Reh (Representing Emmaus Europe) Nickolay Abkairov (Representing Online Development), and Samuel Adams (Representing the Revival Movement)

## Editorial Help Required

BES Editorial Group are looking for one or two Churches who are using Bibletime lessons as work sheets in their Sunday groups and who would be prepared to trial A5 Teacher's Guidelines for May 2013 Levels 1 and 2 and give us some feedback at the end of the month. Please get in touch with Stephen Gillham if you could help us in this way.

[sgillham@counties.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:sgillham@counties.freeserve.co.uk) by June 1st.

Please remember this day and pray that it might be a real help to all those who are able to meet together on this occasion.

## BES Advisory Group

The Trustees have given much thought to the establishment of a BES Advisory Group - This includes people who are involved in different ways in the BES work and also those who have the necessary expertise and experience in other fields. The first BES Advisory Group meeting was held on Saturday March 23rd.

Please pray for the Advisory Group as they are involved in guidance and advice for the future development of Bible Educational Services.

# Feedback...

Below are a few comments from Students and Teachers using our lessons.

“ I learned the life of Jesus and who He is. If you keep Jesus in your heart you will overcome all difficulties.”

- Pupil at New Vision School, Tanzania

“ I love these courses because, through them, I learn so many things about people, places and events from the Word of God and the things I learn are much easier fixed in my mind than when I just read the Bible on my own.”

- Loredana, aged 16, student from Romania

“ It has promoted spiritual growth in the School as a whole. Not all teachers are talented in teaching Biblical knowledge. Please continue to supply us with materials to help us teach well.”

- Teacher at New Vision School, Tanzania

“ I know some things from the Bible but I just realised I should “seek the Lord while He may be found” instead of waiting for the moment just before my death to make peace with Him. I know Christ is alive and He will come back soon to take His own with Him. I would like to study your courses because I want to learn a lot more about Him from the Word of God.”

- Lucian, aged 44, a prisoner and new student from Romania

“ We get to know many things concerning God. We have to listen because we want to know Christ.”

- Pupil at New Vision School, Tanzania

“ The programme has helped a lot in building good morals on pupils parallel with the basic knowledge of knowing and learning about God. The school admits pupils of various faiths, a few times teachers get some challenges from parents of such pupils. We still recommend that this programme should still run in our schools.”

- Teacher at Shalom Primary School, Tanzania

## Recent Travels

Sam Balmer

### Czech Republic & Germany

Sam Balmer and Stephen Gillham visited the BES Centres in the Czech Republic and Germany recently. In the Czech Republic there are more students studying lessons than previously and the number of markers has increased. The Team are now revising their original lessons and also translating the New Life Bible Study Course. In Germany, Andrea and Andreas have virtually finished translating and designing the A Series and we are hoping that these will go on our new Website by September. They are also looking at ways in which the German lessons can have a printed version for use in churches and homes in Germany.

### Croatia

The progress of work in Croatia is exciting. The team, led by Damir continue to work hard with translation and graphic design. Every month the lessons are printed in two magazines. “the book” has a distribution of 10,000 monthly and level 1 is printed in the centre pages. “Rhema” has a distribution of 5,000 and is printed quarterly with a level 3 lesson printed inside. The magazine producers have introduced a new magazine for women. The BES team might translate the series

in New life entitled “Women of the Bble” to be published in the new magazine. Bibletime lessons are also downloaded from the Croatian website on a regular basis mainly by school teachers to teach RE in class. Praise God for these open doors and pray for the translators, designers and users.

### Spain

Sam is just back from a very encouraging and blessed visit to Salamanca in Spain. He met with the BES Translation Team. There were 25 attending including children some of whom are already using the lessons. The team have 80% of the translation completed and approx. 50% of the design work. They plan to launch the availability of Bibletime in September this year. Praise God for each of those involved and pray for they're blessing and encouragement as they move forward with this ministry. The opportunities this opens in the Spanish speaking world is immense.

Sam will also soon be visiting Brazil and USA (May 6th -15th ), Romania (May 23th -26th) and the Pan African Conference in Kenya. (11th – 18th August)



The Spanish Translation Team



The lessons printed in a Croatian magazine

# BES needs and prayer points

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## Can you help?

The Needs of BES are ever varied and increasing as we seek to reach the next generation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, if the Lord leads you to help us practically; we have attached a Sponsorship Form and FREEPOST envelope for your convenience.  
THANK YOU

## Prayer Points

### ● Trustees

Pray for the Trustees but especially Stevie and Claire Walls and their new son Reuben who has been born with no lower limbs and deformed upper limbs.

### ● English Editing Teams

Pray for accuracy and strength for the task .

### ● Translation Teams

Pray for the Teams working in Spanish-Bibletime, Spanish-Newlife, Portuguese, Russian, Japanese, German, Korean-Newlife, French, French Quebec-Newlife, Tamil, Hindi, Telegu, Malayalam, Turkish, Italian, Swahili, Polish, Ukrainian, Amharic, Romanian, Hungarian, Czech, Armenian, Croatian, Mongolian, Tajikistan, Lunda. Pray they will be Biblically accurate, given help with cultural contextualisation and strength from The Lord.

### ● Printing

Praise God for the Revival Movement and pray for their needs to be met enabling further printing for many organisations worldwide.

### ● Design

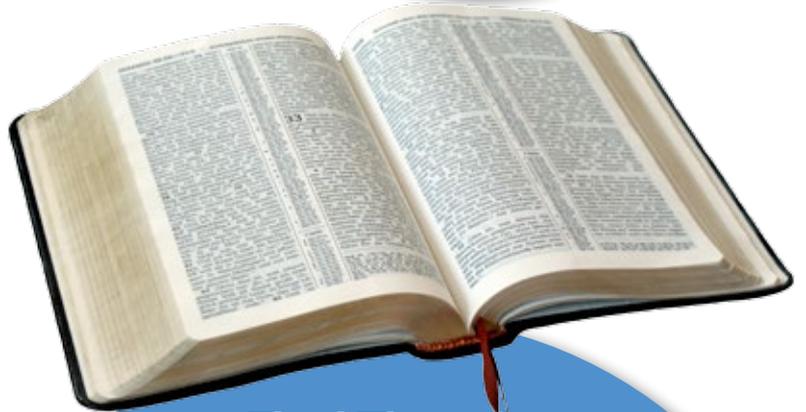
Praise the Lord for those who design the lessons and pray for their families. Remember especially Tamas in Hungary and Steve in Cardiff. Remember also designers in other countries like Croatia, Brazil, Italy, Spain, Zambia, etc.

### ● Website

Pray that we will soon have lessons available for downloading in up to 15 languages. Praise God for those who use the website. Pray for many more users throughout the world, and pray that we might be given guidance as to the best way to publicise the website.

### ● Online Lesson Development

This Team need our prayers as they are working on a product that has the potential to reach millions of children with the gospel. Pray for protection against the attacks of the enemy. Pray for their families, pray for success in their employment. Pray for insight and fresh ideas as they write the programmes and prepare the resource graphically.



## Final Thought

To God be the glory!

In John 7 the Lord's step brothers wanted him to go to Jerusalem and literally show His greatness by performing more miracles. They were evidently proud of Him but they did not yet believe. They wanted Him to show His works but did not realise that His works should have revealed to them who He really is. He did go to Jerusalem but not to exalt Himself but the One who had sent him. He said "The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of Him who sent Him is true, and in Him there is no falsehood." (John 7: 18 ESV). He was there with the sole purpose of glorifying God and providing Salvation.

Pray for all the workers associated with the work of BES. The reports of the work are presented to you with the sole purpose of bringing glory to God and not to the workers. Like the apostle Paul all would confess "We are God's fellow workers".

Bert Gray

## Bes Trustees & Contacts

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Some Trustees are available to give reports and encourage prayer for this worldwide ministry.

Further copies of this BES news can be downloaded from the BES website – [www.besweb.org](http://www.besweb.org)

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bible educational services

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