

ZIMBABWE – WHERE BIBLES SELL FOR \$500 MILLION!

With inflation running at an unbelievable 231 million percent and chronic shortages of cash and basic necessities, life in Zimbabwe is difficult. But Pastor Ikabodi Chinyati, who took office as General Secretary of the Bible Society of Zimbabwe recently, is keen to face the challenges.

“People are turning to God in the midst of this crisis because they know He is the only one they can depend on,” he says.

When Mr Chinyati first took office an answer to prayer came when a local Christian businessman paid the release fee on 40,000 Bibles which had been held by a freighting company for a year.

And projects are still moving ahead, such as the recent printing of the Bible in Chikunda – a language spoken by around 145,000 people.

Mr Chinyati is laying the groundwork for the Let the Children Speak project, which aims to help abused children. Through it Bible Society will provide Children's Bibles to the Just Children Foundation, a faith-based

organization that runs homes for street children.

“We want to teach the children that they are special and loved by God,” says Mr Chinyati.

As well, Mr Chinyati plans to start a new project giving Bibles to staff in government departments.



A young Zimbabwean girl gathers twigs for fuel.

NEW BIBLE TRANSLATION IN CHAD

A new translation of the Sar Bible was welcomed amidst great ceremony in the town of Sarh in the South of Chad recently. The Bible was carried in at the head of a procession which included traditional dancers.



Rev Jonathan Madjissembaye and Bishop Edmond Djitangar, the Bishop of Sarh, bless the new translation.

Bible translator, Enoch Ngarbolnan, sketched the history of the project from its beginnings in the 1970s to the present day.

United Bible Societies Translation Consultant, Andy Warren-Rothlin, stressed the high standards set for the ecumenical translation by UBS. He spoke of how translating the Bible allowed people to have a better understanding of it. “Would a father speak to his children in a foreign tongue?” he asked.

General Secretary of the Bible Society of Chad, Pastor Altana, said what a proud day it was for all Sar speakers. To highlight the ecumenical nature of the day, the Bible was blessed by both Protestant and Catholic church leaders.

AUDIO SCRIPTURES SUSTAIN REFUGEES IN INDIA

For four days before fleeing for his life Vijay received telephone calls telling him that if he did not renounce his Christian faith he would die. Vijay is one of thousands of Christians from Orissa, India who have fled from extremists and who are now living in one of six refugee camps in the region.

While searching the refugee camp for his family, Vijay stumbled across an elderly man who had managed to save only one thing before he fled – his audio Scriptures. The elderly man thought that Vijay was trying to steal his audio Scriptures until Vijay explained that he actually works for *Faith Comes by Hearing* and that he was simply overjoyed to see an audio Bible in the camp.

Fortunately Vijay later found his family in the camp, and he is now working to start *Faith Comes by Hearing* groups throughout the camps.



A Faith Comes by Hearing listening group at a refugee camp in Orissa, India.

FROM THE CEO

At the recent annual meeting of our National Council (the governing body of Bible Society) I was able to report that Bible Society in New Zealand had given more than \$2 million to overseas Bible mission in the previous 12 months. Thanks to your generous support, we are giving amounts to worldwide Bible needs that constantly put New Zealand in the top three donor-nations, per capita, in the world. And that's a great blessing for us!

But we don't neglect our own domestic Bible needs. In fact, since I came into this job the whole issue of Bible engagement - or should I say remedying the sad lack of it - here in New Zealand has been foremost in my objectives.

That's why I'm really excited about the Tarore project.

Not only will this project reach over 140,000 New Zealand primary school children with the inspiring story of a young Māori girl's love for her Bible, but it will put into their hands and hearts parts of the Gospel of Luke - the same words that transformed the life of young Tarore.

I commend this project to you in the strongest possible terms. Please support it with your gift and your prayers. It's a unique opportunity to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to the young of our nation.

In Christ

Mark Brown
Chief Executive

Mark Brown



HELPING TO REBUILD LIVES

In the wake of Australia's devastating bushfires Bible Society is providing free Bibles for survivors and it is equipping chaplains and counselors with Bibles and other Scripture-based counseling aids.

In the coming months and years as communities are re-established, Bible Society will provide churches, schools and Christian organisations with new Bibles. Please pray for the survivors, support workers and churches in the area.



A property razed to the ground by the bushfires.

TWO NEW V-P'S FOR BIBLE SOCIETY

Archbishop David Moxon and Bruce Murray QSO, were elected as the two new Vice Presidents of Bible Society New Zealand at the National Council meeting in February. Peter McKenzie QC was re-elected to serve for another year as President.



Bruce Murray



Archbishop David Moxon

Archbishop Moxon is the Bishop of Waikato and co-presiding Bishop in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. Born in Palmerston North, he was educated at Massey and Canterbury Universities and also at Oxford University, England. Archbishop Moxon holds two Master of Arts degrees in education and theology. He was ordained a priest in 1979 and a Bishop in 1993, and he has been extensively involved in liturgical education and development.

Bruce Murray has been an officer at the Tawa Baptist Church since 1965 and was a member of the NZ Baptist Christian Education Committee for seven years. He was Principal of Tawa College, near Wellington, for thirteen years. Following a life long career in education, he was awarded a QSO for services to education in 2002. Bruce also represented New Zealand in cricket from 1967 -1971 and is currently President of Cricket Wellington.

Please prayerfully consider giving a gift to help publish the Tarore story for New Zealand school children, so that they too can know the transforming power of the Gospel of Luke as Tarore did.

Please send your gift to:
Bible Society,
Private Bag 27901, Marion Square, Wellington 6141

THE LAST WORD

VERY TRULY, I TELL YOU, UNLESS A GRAIN OF WHEAT FALLS INTO THE EARTH AND DIES, IT REMAINS JUST A SINGLE GRAIN; BUT IF IT DIES, IT BEARS MUCH FRUIT.

- John 12.24, NRSV

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THE WORD AT WORK

NEW ZEALAND
BIBLE SOCIETY

THE TARORE STORY FOR 140,000 NZ CHILDREN

A young girl murdered. A devastated father refusing to seek revenge. A murderer transformed through the Gospel he stole from his victim. Then forgiveness given and peace achieved!

No, it's not a Hollywood blockbuster! It's the true story of a Māori girl named Tarore, the events surrounding her death and the impact her death had upon the Māori people of Aotearoa/New Zealand.

It's a story of how God brought about His purposes amongst the Māori tribes of this nation.

It's the story of how Māori with only one copy of the Gospel of Luke became evangelists to their own people.

It's the story of how the first European missionary arrived on the Kapiti coast to find churches planted and Māori worshipping using fragments of the Māori Prayer Book.

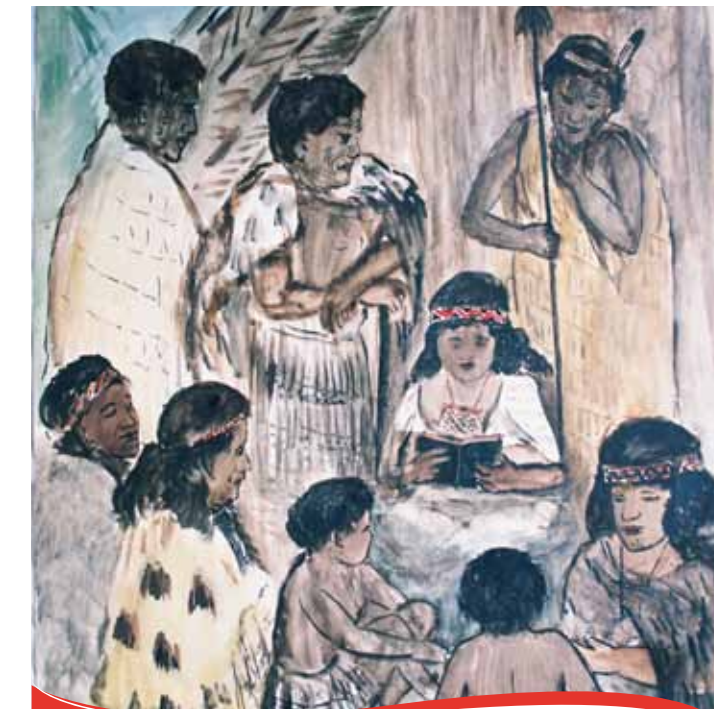
It's a story of how the first Bishop of New Zealand travelled to the South Island to find many tribes that already knew Jesus Christ.

It's a story that will captivate you, as you read how God unfolded His plans for this nation.

And it's a story that's still a part of God's plan for New Zealand.

This year renowned children's author, Joy Cowley, is teaming up with Bible Society to write the Tarore story. The book will be distributed free to 110,000 school children through Christian Religious Education (CRE), formerly known as Bible in Schools. It will also be distributed to 30,000 Catholic school children.

A unique opportunity to bring fresh hope to young New Zealanders



One of the Mary Glover Bibby paintings, which will be used to illustrate the Tarore story. Here Tarore reads the Gospel of Luke to her people.

The book will contain selected verses from the Gospel of Luke, and it will be illustrated using 90 year old paintings depicting the Tarore story donated by the Bibby family of Hawke's Bay.

This is a unique opportunity to impact a generation of young New Zealanders with the Good News of the

Gospel through the remarkable story of a young Māori girl, whose Gospel of Luke became the key to the conversion of many Māori tribes.

But we need your help! Your gift of just \$10 will help to publish and distribute twenty copies of the Tarore story to young New Zealanders. Let's work together to bring about the next phase of the Tarore story in this country.

P.S. As a special thank you, every supporter who gives a gift will be offered a free copy of the Tarore story. To receive a copy, simply tick the box on your remittance form and we will send you one in June. Thank you and God bless you.



Free

Bible Society
Private Bag 27901
Marion Square
Wellington 6141

JOY COWLEY – A LITERARY TAONGA

Wife, mother, grandmother and committed Christian Joy Cowley (OBE, Hon D. Litt, DCNZM) is an award winning author with more than 600 books published.

Nominated in the Junior Fiction section of the 2009 Children's and Young Adults book awards, Joy Cowley has been writing children's literature for nearly forty years, and her books are among the mainstay of New Zealand's school reading programme.

Throughout her life's journey the Bible has been pivotal to Joy Cowley's faith.

"When I was young I was expected to read my Bible right through, every year. Most years I almost managed it – skipping some of the boring passages like the laws and the begat bits. I connected with the Psalms and the Gospels and I loved Jesus, the children's friend," she says.

Joy Cowley has now been reading the Bible for over sixty years.

"My Bible is a well-worn map for my life journey and I do not read it alone. The Holy Spirit is always there to guide me to the teachings I need, whether they be of challenge or celebration, acceptance or affirmation, and every time I open my Bible, I come to a larger place."



Award winning author Joy Cowley.

"I LOVED JESUS, THE CHILDREN'S FRIEND."

BRINGING FRESH HOPE TO SCHOOL CHILDREN

For the first time, as many as 140,000 New Zealand school children are to receive their own copy of the Tarore story. Through this project, it is hoped that the



Children listen attentively during a CRE (Bible in Schools) class.

children will not only learn about the beginnings of Christianity in this country, but that they will also come to know and love some of the same verses of the Gospel of Luke that had so much impact upon Tarore and many other Maori people.

"I am thrilled that the Tarore story will be produced by Bible Society for distributing free to children throughout New Zealand," says Petrea Medland, of the CRE national office. "Around 4,000 voluntary CRE teachers are also delighted that they are to receive this wonderful resource!"

"The story tells how Tarore's life and the lives of many Māori were transformed by God, through their reading and living out of the truths they discovered in the Bible. I believe that as copies of this story are distributed, that same life changing power of God to transform lives will be unleashed," says Petrea.

NZ ARTIST FOR NZ STORY

Mary Glover Bibby was a talented artist and a Sunday school teacher. She used her own paintings to illustrate the missionary stories she loved to teach at Sunday school in Waipawa in the 1920s, where she lived with her husband, James Bibby.

Scottish born, Mary Glover Bibby was educated in London where she studied art. After emigrating to New Zealand in 1891 she continued to paint and sketch throughout her life.

Great granddaughter, Claire Bibby, remembers well the Tarore paintings being almost reverentially brought out for viewing at her grandparents' farm at Ongaonga when she was a child.

The Bibby family have generously donated the Tarore paintings to illustrate the Tarore story.



Mary Glover Bibby
Bibby Family Collection, Alexander Turnbull Library.

HIV/AIDS PROGRAMME HELPS BREAK THE SILENCE

In Tanzania, the Bible Society's Good Samaritan programme is helping to break down the barriers of silence surrounding the devastating disease of HIV/AIDS.

"The Good Samaritan programme puts the Word of God into action," says Neema Kiswaga, the Bible Society of Tanzania's HIV/AIDS coordinator.

We train church and community leaders on how to run Good Samaritan workshops in their local communities, which focus on the issues surrounding the disease.

"There is only one tool that works to change attitudes towards HIV/AIDS – the Bible! Through this programme, people are receiving Bible-based teaching which is encouraging them to make lifestyle changes and to challenge the stigma surrounding the disease," Ms Kiswaga explains.

It is thought that around 8.8 percent of Tanzania's population of 40 million have the disease.



Participants in a 'Good Samaritan' programme workshop in Mkwana, Tanzania. This was one of the programmes supported by Bible Society New Zealand.

MIGRANTS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

Thank you to our many supporters who gave so generously to support Bible Mission to refugees and migrants in Europe and the Middle East.



Hrayr Jebijian, General Secretary of the Bible Society in the Gulf.

Hrayr Jebijian, General Secretary of the Bible Society in the Gulf, recently reported on Bible Society's work in the United Arab Emirates over the Christmas period.

"Migrant workers in the camps gathered to celebrate Christmas in many different languages and settings," he said. "In one camp 5,000 Telugu speakers gathered in a temporary tent and in another 3,000 Sri Lankans met in a community hall."

Bible Society distributed 15,000 packages containing a book and a CD of Chronological Bible Stories (CBS) in the language of Telugu. It distributed 300 New Testaments and 200 CBS in one new camp, and it plans to distribute a further 5,000 New Testaments there during the year.

It also provided 57,000 copies of a booklet explaining God's plan of redemption, for distribution through the churches, in fourteen different languages.

BRILLE GOSPELS FOR GEORGIA

The recent launch of the four Gospels in Braille at a centre run by the Visually Impaired People Union in Tbilisi was met with joy and gratitude by the many blind and visually impaired people who attended the event.

Bible Society presented three sets of the Gospels to the VIP Union library, and other copies were distributed to some of the visually impaired people present. Bible Society consultant, Simon Gogodze, spoke of the scale and the cost of Braille Bible projects, and of the high technical quality of the Georgian Braille Gospels.

Georgia has more than 5,000 blind and visually impaired people, of whom around 500 are able to read Braille.

* Bible Society New Zealand supporters contributed earlier this year to help provide Braille Bibles to Georgia and other countries.



A Bible Society worker distributes Braille Gospels.

I WILL BE WITH YOU – ALWAYS!

As New Zealanders begin to feel the effects of the recession, the question of how we, as Christians, should respond to such a crisis inevitably arises.

The Bible tells us that no matter what we are facing we will not be alone.

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you..." (Isaiah 43.2, NRSV)

Indeed, such times should not overwhelm us, but should give us an even greater opportunity to rejoice and to witness to the power of God in our lives, and to share His love with those who do not know him.

As a Bible Society supporter, you are part of a Bible ministry which helps to bring His Word to a suffering world. In troubled times the need for Bibles often increases as people begin to seek answers to the events occurring around them.

Bible Society will be working as hard as ever to apply the most effective Christian stewardship to every dollar gifted and to provide Bibles where they are most needed.

In partnership with you, our valued supporters, we will continue to work to extend the Kingdom of God in countries around the world where the need for Bibles is urgent, and we will continue our Bible ministry here at home.

And we know that we will continue to witness the miracle of God at work taking every gift and multiplying it for His purposes.

"You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity ... for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God." (2 Cor 9.11-12, NRSV)

Let's move forward together, secure in the knowledge that we are His people and that our calling to be a light to the world is now more important than ever.



A young Cambodian woman is happy to receive her first Bible.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

The Bible Society has learned with sorrow of the passing of the following friends. Gifts towards the work of the Bible cause have been made in their memory. Their work of love goes on . . .

Mr Jack Ashley, Hamilton
Rev George Buckley, Auckland
Mrs Cecily Charlton-Jones, Dannevirke
Mr Frank Coe, Te Awamutu
Mr Alfred James Coker, Wanganui
Mrs Gwen Christensen, Putaruru
Mrs Annie Lindsay Driller, Hastings
Mrs D Flett-Weidenbohm, Tauranga

Mr Ron Doug Herty, Manurewa
Mr Edward Hinchcliff, Auckland
Mr Owen Hughes, Wellington
Miss Esme Jackson, New Plymouth
Mr Laurice Kilpatrick, Gisborne
Mrs Nancy Ward Lambert, Tauranga
Mrs Dorothy Marian Logue, Wellsford
Mr Geoffery Mills, Hamilton

Mrs Mary Miller (nee Suisted), Tauranga
Mrs Margaret M Morton, Christchurch
Mrs Joyce Oates, Tauranga
Mrs Muriel Paterson, Northcote
Mrs Florence Pound, Matamata
Mr Ray Spence, Gisborne
Pastor Bill Whitley, Gisborne

THERE'S A BIBLE SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVE NEAR YOU!

Our representatives are there to serve you, your home group, your church.

You can contact them as follows:

Northland – Wayne Johns (09) 435 5473
Auckland – Michael Mardon (09) 818 1025
Waikato/Bay of Plenty – Mark Sims (07) 888 9990
Central North Island – Merv Rive (06) 362 7716
Wellington – Richard Nicoll (04) 234 7070
North South Island – Jim Wescombe (03) 313 7754
Otago/Southland – Stephen White (03) 487 8177
or phone Bible House on 0800 42 42 53

Give a gift that goes on giving... Remember Bible Society in your will.

THE BIBLE SOCIETY IN NEW ZEALAND

Freephone: 0800 4 BIBLE (42 42 53).
E-mail: bibles@biblesociety.org.nz
Web: www.biblesociety.org.nz

WILL YOU PLEASE HELP US IN OUR MISSION?

We would greatly value your support of Bible Society mission.

We would value your prayers for our mission.

And we would appreciate your gift which will help to publish the Tarore story for New Zealand school children so that they too can know the Gospel of Luke as Tarore did.

Will you help? If 'YES!' please fill in the following:

Here's my/our gift of \$..... which comes with my/our prayers for God's blessing on those school children who will receive the Tarore story.

Please make your cheque payable to: Bible Society.

Or, give by Credit Card:

MasterCard Visa Amex (000230)

Cardholder

Expiry date

Signature

Phone (.....)

To enable us to send a receipt for your gift, please write your name and address below:

Name

Address

.....

.....

Postcode

Tick here to receive your free copy of the Tarore Story.

When you have filled in this form, please detach this panel from the rest of *The Word at Work*, (include your cheque if giving by this method) and fold and seal it so the address is showing on the outside, and post it.

It's that simple.

Thank you, and God bless you!

You can also give online through our secure website, head to www.biblesociety.org.nz and click 'give online'