

SUNDAY 24 OCTOBER WAS BIBLE SUNDAY!

We marked it at St Andrew's with a focus on our mission partner Mike Bassous and the Bible Society in Lebanon, a country which is in terrible trouble at the moment. You can see the video he sent here. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDx9bFjxN-Y>

A 4x4 is loaded with Bibles in Niger



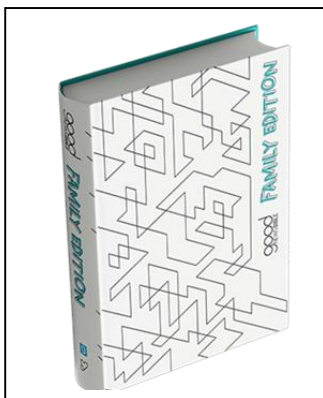
Ever since Bible Society was founded 217 years ago as The British and Foreign Bible Society, its two aims have been: (1) through translation, to make the Word of God available to people in their own heart language, and (2) to enable the Bible to speak in a contemporary and relevant way within our own culture. Here are examples of how these two aims are being met today.

Thirty million full Bibles were distributed worldwide last year by Bible Societies despite the pandemic, according to the latest figures. In total, 190 million Scripture items, including New Testaments and portions of the Bible, were distributed thanks to the kind giving of Bible Society supporters.

The distribution of Bibles actually fell by 37 per cent, no doubt due to 'stay-at-home' orders, but online downloads increased by 113 per cent. As internet access around the world

continues to increase, we can be confident that more people will be able to experience Scripture. In 2020, 38 per cent of all full Bibles distributed were internet downloads – up from 25 per cent in the previous year.

Here at home, Sarah Eberle's Psalm 23 Bible Society Garden won the RHS gold medal award at Chelsea for "best sanctuary garden" last month. It aimed to inspire people to create community gardens, coming out of the pandemic. There is now a book about it, 'Sarah Eberle's Psalm 23 Garden: Design tips for a calm green space' available from Bible Society for £6.50.



Hot off the press is the new family version of the Good News Bible. Lou Woolcock from Youth for Christ, who has been working on the project, says 'We know that time is an issue for families, and so is confidence to know how to engage with the Bible together. So we have hundreds of suggestions through five different types of interactions, Think, Chat, Do, Create and Watch. There will also be an online community for families to engage in wider discussions. This Bible invites the whole family to participate... to actively engage with it together, so together they can grow in faith.

For more information, to order books and Christmas resources, to find out about 'Bible A Month Club' and to support our mission, visit <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk>