



SOWING CIRCLE

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FEAR NOT

FOR UNTO US A

Child is born

LUKE : 2 : 10





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**“I find
hope and
comfort in
the Word
of God.”
– Mary**

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“FEAR NOT”

for unto us a child is born (Luke: 2: 10)

— Rev. Dr. Kavito G. Zhimo

Christmas is here and we are preparing to celebrate the season of joy, hope and love. As I pondered over its significance, I was drawn to the infancy narrative in the Gospel of Luke, particularly on the Lukan imperative, *Fear Not* (Luke 2:10). Daring to live without fear is utopia. The human race, since creation has never been free from fear, yet fear has not paralyzed the world from progressing. Therefore, fear can be looked at as an opportunity for those who think life is full of challenges but it can also obstruct people from thinking, acting and living life in its fullness. As Mark Twain said, *Courage is resistance to fear and mastery of fear, not the absence of fear*. The choice here is either to live in fear and realise that you have not really lived or to trust God and not be afraid to live as the Lord is your strength and your defence (Isaiah 12: 2). To keep the focus clear, I will mull over this topic under three categories: The what? The why? and The how? (What causes fear, why not to fear and how to live a life amidst fear).



What Causes Fear?

Background of the Text

The context in which the Angel of the Lord says **Fear Not** has its connection to the social, political and religious environment in which people of that time lived. Politically, the Romans were in power and Tiberius Julius Caesar Augustus was the ruler of the Roman empire (Luke 2:1). The Romans during their reign had established a 2-tier system of Governance. This was the plot through which the Herodian family came into prominence. Herod was appointed by the Roman Empire to rule over Judaea, Samaria and Galilee. In Mathew's gospel, Herod attempted to kill Jesus as no other king or power should exist under the Roman empire (Matthew 2). Religiously,

the Sadducees and Pharisees were evidently in control of the Jewish law yet they suspected each other and were constantly in conflict. The Sadducees are known for their pragmatic religious beliefs. Most of the wealthy aristocrats, lay nobles and priests originated from this group. But the way they gained popularity was in alliance with Rome for which they also gained positions and membership in the Sanhedrin council (the supreme council headed by the high priest, having religious, civil and criminal jurisdiction). Therefore, they were known for their double standards; committed to the Jewish faith yet in practice holding allegiance with the Roman powers. On the other hand, the Pharisees were idealists of Jewish society. They did not compromise with the Romans as the Sadducees were, nor did they take up revolutionary activities like the Zealots (a revolutionary group who fought against Roman oppression in Israel). Most of the scribes came from the Pharisees and they claimed themselves spiritually at par with the Sadducees. Together they were suspicious of the publican (mostly tax collectors) and oppressed the peasant class, including the shepherds subjecting them to live in fear. Marys and Zechariahs song in Luke 2: 46-56 and 67-79 reflects the state of the ordinary people. The overall chaotic state of the social, political and religious dictatorship led some groups of people (popularly identified as the Essenes) to even withdraw from society to live an ascetic life. Hence, it is clear that the invasion of the empire implies not only political control but the socio-economic, cultural and religious spheres of the lives of the community were subsumed under the ideologies of domination which solely benefited Rome and the elite. Much to the reality of the present-day context, people at that time truly lived in fear.



Why Not to Fear?

The Day of Hope and Life

The Gospel of Matthew and Luke recorded 4 instances in which the Angel of the Lord pronounced **Fear not**. First to Zachariah, the father of John the Baptist (Luke 1: 13), then to Joseph, father of Jesus (Matthew 1:20), and Mary, mother of Jesus (Mathew 1.30) and finally to the Shepherds which read, *Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings, of great joy which shall be to all people* (Luke 2:10 KJV).

Therefore, “Why not to fear? is because it offers good tidings. The old English word *tidings* comes from the word *tidan* which means “to happen” or “to come to pass”. The word of God is not simply a word of prophecy but a “God of the Word” who keeps His promises and ensures that they come to pass, they happen. The birth of Jesus not only confers the “God of the word” but also offers hope to live. As per the information we gather from the gospels, we see Jesus being born in the most miserable of circumstances. Hope and fear are two contradicting realities on one hand, on the other hand, hope is also born and bred primarily in an environment of conflict, pain, suffering and utter hopelessness. God in all his power and glory could have introduced the world to his Son - the Messiah, the saviour of the world with all the pomp and show, he could have been born to elite parents, at least not under such humble circumstances. But God had to touch the fear and utter hopelessness of the people. Hope here is not just the expectancy of something good that is futuristic but it gives great joy in the present as well. It is the heralding of that day God comes to dwell among us, *Emmanuel*. Therefore, it must never be taken for granted to contemplate the wonders of the greatest message ever pronounced on Christmas Eve. The Christmas story isn't about an escape from the real world of politics and economics, of empires and taxes and bloodthirsty wars. It is about God addressing these problems from within, coming into our world - His world.

How to Live Life Amidst Fear?

It is only when we stop fearing then we start living.

As the world gears up to celebrate Christmas, it comes with a reminder that even amidst celebration or life at its best fear is not absent. Job said, *What I feared has happened to me; what I dreaded has happened to me. I have no peace, no quietness; I have no rest, but only turmoil.* (Job 3: 25-26 RSV).

Fear of uncertainties of life and everything associated with life has taken hostage of people's minds and hence hindered us in several ways from envisioning growth. More so today, the world continues to witness hatred, suspicion and violence on an unprecedented scale. Many innocent lives are lost, cities and livelihoods are bombed and we witness the dismal condition of war-ravaged cities and innocent lives. In times like these, how do we make sense of the message of hope? The angelic message of good tidings opened with ***Fear not!*** The message of good news of great joy is presented by addressing the “fear” of the people because fear must make way for hope. It does not imply that the good news wipes out all fear but it gave the shepherds, representing all those whose lives are gripped by fear, hope and courage to live life in the midst of fear. ***Fear not*** as a prelude to the good news of Jesus' birth awakened them to the reality of the new phase in their history

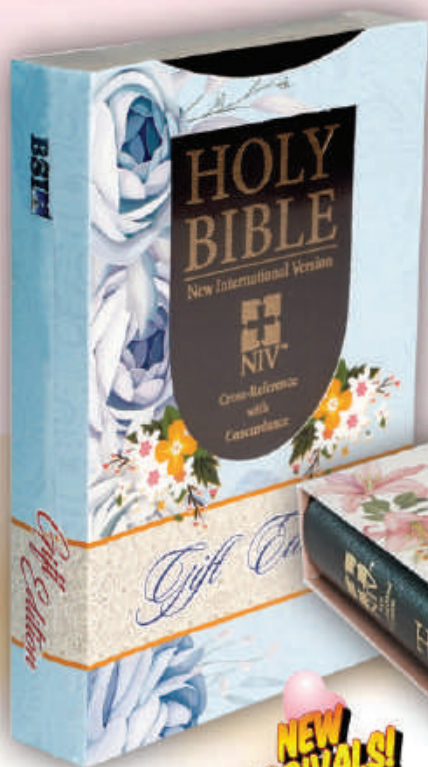
As true sons and daughters of India, it is relevant to bring this angelic message ***Fear not*** in conversation with one of the nation's most loved poems: *Where the Mind is Without Fear*, written by the Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore in the background of British colonialism. It is a prayer that envisions a free, enlightened and awakened India where lives can be lived in all its fullness. As we live in the age of fear, fear inculcated in the minds of the people due to corruption, terrorism, and prejudices based on religion, caste, race, and gender, I reiterate Luke's message, ***Fear not!*** The story of Christmas is that God chose to birth hope in the midst of fear. Hope and fear converged in the birth of Jesus Christ. May our celebration of Christ's birth awaken in us this very hope that fear obstructs. May hope converge with the realities of fear in our lives, be it personal or communal, and may this hope eclipse all fears in and through the birth of Jesus Christ.



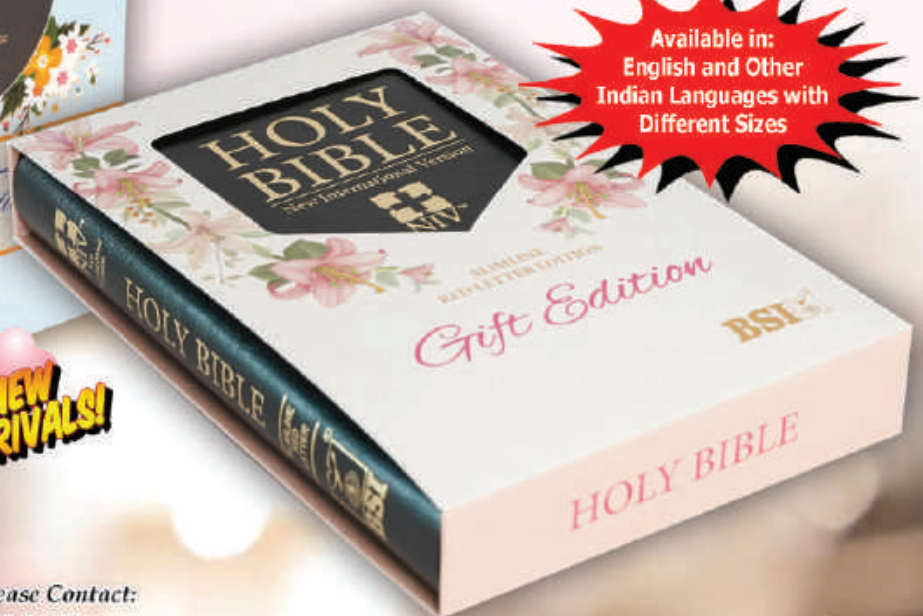
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The Incarnate Christ is Our Peace

Belief in the incarnate God, Jesus Christ offers hope and solace in the face of violence and conflict, whether in Manipur State, Gaza Strip or, any other troubled region in the world. The teachings of Jesus emphasize love, forgiveness, and reconciliation, peace even in the midst of hostility. The concept of the incarnate God reminds believers of the divine presence amidst suffering and encourages us to work towards peace and understanding. By following the example set by Jesus, individuals can promote empathy, dialogue, and nonviolence as a means to resolve conflicts. In times of strife, faith in the incarnate God can motivate communities to come together, transcending religious, ethnic, and cultural differences, to promote understanding and work towards common goals.

As we approach the end of the year 2023, inspite of conflicts and sufferings in various parts of the world, we are filled with gratitude for the unwavering support and dedication shown by the Church, donors, friends, well-wishers and prayer partners of the Bible Society of India across India and abroad. Your generosity and commitment have illuminated countless lives, spreading the message of hope and love far and wide. Your contributions have made a significant difference, allowing us to continue our vital work of spreading the Word of God through translation, production, distribution and Scripture engagement and solace the hearts of those in deep pain. The end of the year not only signifies a period of reflection but also heralds the arrival of a fresh start. This Sowing Circle Magazine comes to you to say how grateful we are for being our faithful friends in this life transforming journey as we engage with the WORD of GOD. Your stories in this magazine tell us how marvelously God manifests in and through your lives. Your prayer and generosity has lightened and brightened our path, and we are profoundly thankful for our partnership in this life's journey. We wish you a Christ Centered Merry Christmas and a Blessed Happy New Year!!

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COVER STORY



VISIT OF REV. DIRK GEVERS, SECRETARY GENERAL UBS AND MR. ADRIAN WHITE, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER UBS ON 21ST- 22ND AUGUST 2023.

The two days' visit of our guests from UBS to Bible Society of India Central Office was a blessing. Their visit was more relational due to the induction of the New BSI General Secretary. There was a personal meeting with the GS and fellowship with the Heads of the Departments. On 21st evening we organised an Ecumenical Evening in honour of their visit. Our President Rev. Dr. Leelavathi Vemuri welcomed the guests on behalf of the BSI in the presence of our Treasurer Mr. Deepak and Rev. Prabhuraj, member of the Executive Committee. The delegates invited were church leaders, partners and Organizations heads including representatives from the Catholic Affinity Group.



United Bible Societies World Assembly 2023 Statement

God's Word: Reconciliation for the World

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation

(2 Corinthians 5:18)

At the World Assembly held in Egmond aan Zee, the Netherlands, in October 2023, we, the members of the United Bible Societies, express special gratitude for God's grace that each of us has experienced throughout the recent years. We recognize and affirm together our dependence on God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – for all that we are and all that we do.

We declare afresh our commitment to the UBS mission of 'The Bible for Everyone' and we renew our dedication to the fundamental principles that guide us, as expressed in the UBS Fellowship Agreement.

We work together as a Fellowship because we firmly believe that this collaboration, founded on biblical principles, will bring better fruit for God's Kingdom, better effectiveness in our mission, better response to current calls and tasks in front of us. As our dedication to serving all churches

remains steadfast, we embrace our shared commitment to a Bible ministry that encompasses the core work of translation, publishing, distribution and helping people to engage with the Bible in a meaningful way. In the spirit of Christian unity and generosity, we seek to learn from each other and willingly share our knowledge.

As a Fellowship we have identified important mission priorities that would guide us through the next season. We respect the autonomy of each UBS member and we aspire to see global initiatives alongside local work, enhancing each other. We recognise that the leadership of each Bible Society will determine in what manner local work is informed by these shared priorities.

Our motivation and mandate are driven by the words of Jesus in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18–20), so that people everywhere will have the opportunity to encounter God through the Bible. Our desire as a Fellowship is to foster unity against the backdrop of past hurts and injustices; and the biblical principle of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18) is central to the conduct of our mission. Based on these affirmations we stand by the following statements.

Bible Translation

Bible Translation is at the heart of our mission. Local needs assessment is the basis of translation decisions. More Fellowship collaboration and suitable funding models are needed. UBS Bible translation ethos and standards need to be upheld. Advanced technology and partnerships need to be considered and employed where they help advance Bible translation.

Bible Translation understood not as a goal in itself but geared towards Bible Engagement is the core of our mission. We have a special responsibility for providing high-quality Bible translations and maintaining the highest standards. We collaborate with all churches and provide interconfessional Bible translations in the style and format audiences are attracted to. Through this, we foster unity among Christians and help people to access the salvific message contained in the Bible.

Local contexts vary and require contextualised translation decisions. UBS Bible translation principles and funding criteria must be based on thorough needs assessments and support a contextualised approach. Bible translation includes an aspect of justice; the number of speakers should not be a primary criterion for deciding if a translation should be done; dignity of all people, especially the weakest, and human and societal development must be guiding principles in the decision making. Literacy needs, the requirements of communities requiring new translations or revisions and the needs of specific audiences should be equally considered.

Evenly matched collaboration between funders and implementers is key to achieving this. GMT plays a crucial role in catalysing and mediating these processes. Training and expert support from GMT are vital for maintaining high standards in Bible translation. New technologies must be tested and implemented where they strengthen Bible translation within the UBS quality paradigm. Partnerships advancing Bible translation should be sought. Translation project planning must be based on a realistic funding plan to ensure long-term sustainability. More strategic collaboration across the Fellowship is key to achieving this.

Printed Bible Distribution

Carrying out the mission under a sustainability model and strengthening the distribution ecosystem in UBS

100% of what a Bible Society does is mission. We recognize the importance of printed Bible distribution, understanding the substantial influence that distribution has on the sustainability of the Bible mission, knowing that printed Bible distribution unites us with the church, both local and diaspora, and with missionary agencies and individuals who want to be part of the Bible mission, allowing us to respond to the imminent global need for more people to be able to access the Bible in their own language and their preferred format.

We as Fellowship are committed to help local Bible Societies develop missional and distribution models that integrate the majority of Bible mission partners involved throughout the entire Bible Life Cycle and by optimizing the global supply chains in UBS through: 1) providing the necessary resources for the generation of new translations, new publications and Bible engagement programs that fulfill the local need for the Word of God and can be distributed for free or subsidised, at cost or with a markup; 2) supporting local Bible Societies whose sustainability model depend on the distribution of the Bible, in the development of leadership capabilities, business and financial management, supply chain management and mission projects management; 3) providing support to the Bible Societies that also serve as Production Centers for the Fellowship, and other key supplier partnerships, for the development of future Bible supply/production plans to ensure the availability of Scriptures for all local Bible Societies around the world; 4) exploring and sharing among the Fellowship innovative practices to develop new distribution channels and models, including online distribution; 5) encouraging and assisting existing regional and affinity groups to develop strategies and plans to help Bible Societies improve their mission economic sustainability and strengthen the Bible distribution ecosystem in UBS.

Bible Engagement

Proactive Bible Engagement with churches and other audiences based on research and strong relationships; and collaboration across the Fellowship

We see Bible Engagement as a crucial way to connect with our audiences and a fundamental key for the future of Bible Societies. Through greater Bible Engagement churches can be revitalised and individual lives, communities and nations can be transformed. We will be proactive in collaborating across the Fellowship, within regions and affinity groups to share best practices, research and other resources as appropriate. We agree that projects need to be considered in holistic ways – translation, digital transformation, audience analysis, content creation and Bible advocacy are all part of Bible Engagement. In view of these we will allocate resources to produce programmes and content that are audience appropriate and help strengthen relationships with churches and society. We further commit to working in collaboration with others across the Fellowship for the sake of national, regional and global transformation.

Serving Diaspora Communities

Appoint some dedicated resources and create a Diaspora Response Hub to focus on serving such communities

As we witnessed a significant number of people moving between countries over the recent decade, there is a need for immediate reaction and change of the existing policies, practices, and cultural norms to allow the Fellowship to respond to current and future challenges in the most relevant way. The champion/hub would compile and maintain a knowledge base of best practices and resources (digital and print) and facilitate collaboration between Bible Societies. Led by this champion/hub, the Fellowship will revisit 1) the definition of diaspora communities that is relevant to the Fellowship; 2) current inter-country approaches; 3) the relevance of holistic ministry/humanitarian aid aspect in Bible Societies' responses to crises; 4) existing resources, Scripture availability and supply.

Creation Care

Climate Care: Act well, and Proactively serve the Church

We see the Climate Care conversation as a justice matter. In order to maintain the good reputation as an international mission organisation we need to hold ourselves accountable to high standards in terms of environmental impact. Churches need good biblical content to promote climate justice issues, and we will proactively work with them to meet this need.

As we continue to invest in mission resilience we will build scenarios around climate change that we may need to mitigate or navigate.

Digital Transformation

Investment in an enhanced UBS digital core and global collaboration on end-user product development and innovation

As a Fellowship we recognize that digital capability is a missional imperative for present and future audience engagement. We therefore affirm the need to secure and maintain our current digital core, as well as developing our tools to enable advanced data science and usage analysis, advanced APIs, and more. We also commit to capacity building and toolkits to ensure that no Bible Society is left behind.

We affirm further the critical need to invest substantially in digital innovation and experimentation in order to be a key influencer in Bible mission into the next decade and beyond, to effectively engage emerging generations of digital natives, and to avoid marginalising Bible ministry from an increasingly digital world. This would include strategic collaboration through significant investment in human expertise and digital technologies in order to proactively engage with emerging technologies, including AI, and their potential for mission impact.

End-user products would largely be developed by a centrally coordinated coalition of Bible Societies and GMT, to avoid competing or misaligned products and technologies. These products would be significantly enabled by the enhanced digital core. Bible Societies would still be required to develop content for local audiences and to customise products to suit their contexts, and coordination should be prioritised while retaining flexibility.

Mission Resilience

Global Collaboration Supporting Locally Owned Mission Resilience

Mission Resilience is obviously important to our Bible Societies; we expect our Bible Societies to be around for a long time serving the Bible Cause and we believe that local expressions of Bible Societies are the best model for serving the global church.

Our International Support Programme (ISP) is in many contexts the financial engine room of our global ministry. The knowledge sharing and relationships that go with that fund flow are invaluable. At the same time, the autonomous nature of Bible Societies puts Mission Resilience firmly as the responsibility of the local boards. We encourage each other to invest in digital technology, good governance and good systems and processes for decision making and supply chain management and we welcome intentional collaboration through clusters and alliances.

Furthermore, although it may be hard to do, we encourage leaders to consider activities that need to be stopped or downsized to free up capacity to invest in new ministry opportunities or to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Bible Society. When there is a crisis for a Bible Society, we will use our best endeavours to rally around them as we have done in the past.

We recognise that there are some Mission Resilience matters that can be best served through global collaboration (e.g., Digital Transformation, Global Supply Chain Optimisation, Global fundraising campaigns, Global Best practices in Governance and Financial Risk Management). We hope to see greater collaboration and expect to see funds released into these areas.

For the Bible Society of India, it was a joyful moment to have three delegates representing the Bible Society of India – Rev. Dr. Mrs. Leelavathi Vemuri, President, Bible Society of India, Rev. Dr. Kavito G. Zhimo, General Secretary, BSI and Rev. Brajendra Kumar Kauri, Auxiliary Secretary, Odisha Auxiliary.



Annual Planning Workshop (APW) 2023:

Realities and Opportunities for a Sustainable Bible Mission

The Annual Planning Workshop (APW) held from September 13th to 17th, 2023, in the city of Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, marked a focal moment for the Bible Society of India (BSI). The theme of the event, “Realities and Opportunities to Achieve an Effective and Sustainable Bible Mission,” served as a guiding light for participants from all 17 Auxiliaries of Bible Society of India to congregate, share insights, confront challenges, and chart a path towards a more sustainable and impactful Bible mission.

Inaugural Program and Keynote Addresses:

The event began with a presentation by Mr. Paul Stephen, outlining the mission mandate of the BSI ministry to the participants. It was well-attended, by BSI auxiliary Secretaries, Marketing colleagues, Central office leaders. The inaugural event was attended by more than 65 Church leaders from the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The introduction presentation covered the comprehensive Bible mission carried out by the BSI, encompassing the entire Bible Life Cycle, which includes translation, publishing, distribution, and engagement. The global and India trends on Translation and distribution were highlighted.

During the presentation, various key elements were highlighted. These included the inspirational story of Mary Jones and her profound impact on the Bible Society movement, real-life testimonies of individuals whose lives were transformed through the Word of God, the challenges faced in distributing the Bible, and stories of the heartwarming contributions received from some of the poorest members of the community for the Bible cause.

Furthermore, the Church leaders present were encouraged to support the BSI ministry. They were encouraged to include the BSI in their



prayers, extend assistance to the associate Auxiliary in terms of both upgrading their efforts and providing financial support. Additionally, the Church leaders were encouraged to allow the BSI to conduct Bible Sundays in their respective churches for the purpose of distributing Bibles and collecting contributions.

The BSI General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Kavito G. Zhimo delivered a spiritually uplifting inaugural keynote address. His message centred on the importance of unity and shared vision. He emphasised, “Vision brings people together,” noting that the Lord had brought us together to fulfil this vision and pass it on to the next generation. This vision is meant to abide in us so that a new vision can be ignited and emerge for the future.

He referred to the Bible text from Isaiah 55:11 the significance of the Word of God and through Proverbs 25:10 he encouraged for a stronger faith when you are challenged by difficult circumstances.

GS, Rev. Dr. Kavito G. Zhimo emphasised the significance of continuous learning, unlearning, and relearning. His call to adaptability and growth resonated deeply with the participants, grounding them in the idea that transformation and evolution are vital for an effective ministry. He encouraged the people to make Bibles available where the seeds are grown by the Church, to connect with the varied audiences, people of different faiths and the needy such as the poor, blind and people with hearing impaired.

Rev. Dr. Zhimo’s words summarised the essence of the APW - a congregation of individuals committed to the Bible mission, willing to explore new dimensions, and eager to address the ever-evolving realities of the world.

In his session with the Auxiliary Secretaries and Marketing staff, he emphasized the importance of Team (Together Everyone Achieve More). Coming together is where we start, Working together is where we progress. He used the illustration of UBUNTU, “I am because we

are”. He spoke on the emotional and mental resilience and encouraged us to think ahead of the time. He suggested not to compare with others and think of your own context.

Overall, the GS’ sessions served as a source of inspiration and guidance, urging the BSI staff to foster a collaborative spirit, embrace resilience, and nurture a mindset of individual and collective growth.

Insights from the Marketing Director:

Mr. Paul Stephen, the Director of Publishing and Marketing, presented the performance of the all India BSI distribution of Scriptures for the previous year and the first 5 months of the current financial year. His presentation delved into various dimensions, emphasising the need to consider cost margins, value addition to BSI products, Scripture Engagement resources and innovative promotional strategies for a sustainable Bible Mission.

- **Understanding Cost Margins:** Mr. Paul Stephen highlighted the importance of understanding cost margins associated with BSI products. This insight is particularly valuable for the financial dynamics involved in the Bible mission. The importance of building the margin into the cost or catalog prices, enables sustainable income for the BSI.
- **Value Addition to BSI Products:** The presentation underscored the concept of adding value to BSI products. Beyond just offering Bibles, there’s an opportunity to enhance these offerings to make them more appealing and relevant to the target audience. Innovative packaging, complementary materials, and value-added content were discussed as avenues for adding value thereby increasing the income.
- **Scripture Engagement Resources:** The available resources and new resources for the Scripture engagement mandate of BSI were introduced and discussed. Each Auxiliary was encouraged to utilise the available resources and to introduce to their individual audiences, Church and other groups.



- **Innovative Promotional Strategies:** Participants were encouraged to think outside the box when it comes to promoting BSI products. Mr. Paul Stephen challenged attendees to explore new promotional methods, considering the diverse needs and preferences of their audiences. Custom made Bibles for individuals and Churches, creative packaging, unique marketing campaigns and strategic collaborations were discussed.

- **Distribution vs. Contribution:** Participants engaged in debates about the relative importance of distribution and contribution. While distribution directly impacts the mission's reach, contribution ensures its financial sustenance. The consensus that emerged was that both are indispensable, and their synergy is the key to success.

- **Data-Driven Decision-Making:** The importance of data-driven decision-making was emphasised during the discussions. Auxiliaries were encouraged to collect and analyse data related to their operations, audience preferences, different Income patterns and sales trends. This informed approach to decision-making allows for more effective strategies and resource allocation.

- **Realistic Goal Setting:** The Director underscored the significance of setting realistic and achievable goals. Unrealistic expectations can lead to frustration and disappointment, while attainable goals provide a sense of accomplishment and motivation.

- **Continuous Monitoring and Adaptation:** The APW discussions emphasised that achieving

sustainability is an ongoing process. Regular monitoring, evaluation, and adaptation are crucial for staying responsive to changing realities and opportunities.

- **Channel Partners:** Channel partners play a crucial role in the distribution and promotion of BSI products. Auxiliaries provided insights into how they engage with channel partners, building mutually beneficial relationships that expand the reach of the Bible mission.

CPRRM PRESENTATION AT THE APW – IN BRIEF

The presentation centers on the theme of the BSI APW 2023, which is “Realities and Opportunities to Achieve an Effective and Sustainable Mission for Bible Society of India.” The exploration of this theme will be done through the lenses of the Church’s mandate, Public Relations and Resource Mobilization. The role of BSI is to support the Church as its faithful handmaiden and be a missional society. The primary focus in ministry is to collaborate closely with the Church regardless of the diverse cultural practices, traditions and languages encountered throughout India. The BSI commitment remains steadfast as we walk and work together with the Church.

The present reality of our world is undeniably challenging, but it also presents us with opportunities for growth and progress. One such challenge that the BSI (Bible Society of India) is currently grappling with is the Anti-conversion Law in nine Indian states. This law poses several obstacles to the activities of the BSI. In addition to the legal challenges, the BSI also faces difficulties in navigating our diverse

geopolitical and cultural context, which is further complicated by the various Christian denominational traditions. Furthermore, the ever-evolving landscape of communication, including digital media and social networks, adds another layer of complexity for the BSI. Sign language can be learned through digital platforms. These advancements present both opportunities and challenges in effectively reaching out to the masses and spreading the Word of God. Despite the challenges, the BSI remains committed to its mission of making the Bible accessible and relevant to people from all walks of life. Online Portal makes sure donors are given the chance to participate in the Bible mission and donate their sacrificial giving with a click of a button wherever they are. By adapting to the changing times and leveraging new technologies, the BSI strives to overcome these obstacles and continue its important work.

Engaging with people by preaching in the Churches on Bible Sunday, organizing public events like dialogue, conversations and discussions on various topics based on biblical values on life in all its fullness. The need is to reach out to the public to make known the God of the Bible, who cares for justice, peace, reconciliation, and love for social transformation and harmonious living. Building teams of volunteers for the Bible cause with the committed Christian community can truly enhance the work of the BSI in all Auxiliaries and it gives the confidence that the BSI staff is not alone in their mission work when facing times of crisis. Volunteers and donors can be from all walks of life, heads of churches, pastors, elders, lay leaders, women youth, and even children. God needs people who are available for God's mission, ref. Luke 5:27-28, "And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, follow me. And he left all, rose up, and followed him". When it comes to working for God our availability is more important than our ability. Disciples like Levi, Peter, and others many of whom

God has used; availability was an initiator for God to do great things through their lives. Interestingly, we can have all the talent in the world, but if we are not available to God, then how can those talents and gifts benefit others and God's Kingdom? The ministry of the BSI cannot survive in isolation from the Christian communities. The effectiveness and sustainability of the BSI ministry lies in the way we build our relationship with individuals, community, and the Church for the full cycle of the BSI ministry to keep growing.

Auxiliary Presentations:

One of the hallmark features of this year's APW was the active involvement of auxiliaries in sharing their distribution models, Bible Sunday strategies, exhibition tactics, engagement with Church and importance of channel partners. These presentations offered participants a comprehensive view of the diverse approaches employed by different auxiliaries. It highlighted the need for contextualized strategies that align with the unique realities and opportunities specific to each auxiliary.

- **Distribution Models and programs:** Auxiliaries shared their distribution models and programs, shedding light on the challenges and successes they've encountered. This information exchange allowed participants to gain a deeper understanding of various approaches to Bible distribution and how they can be adapted to their respective contexts.
- **Bible Sunday Strategies:** Bible Sundays emerged as a powerful community engagement tool. Auxiliaries presented their Bible Sunday strategies, showcasing the impact these events can have on promoting BSI products and spreading the message of the Bible. The success stories shared during these presentations served as inspiration for all participants.
- **Exhibition initiatives:** Some Auxiliaries discussed their experiences with organising exhibitions to promote BSI products. They detailed their strategies for attracting visitors,

engaging them effectively, and converting interest into sales or support.

- Publishing and distributing to different Audiences: Some Auxiliaries presented their efforts of reaching out to the specific audiences such as Children, youth, blind, Hearing impaired, and so on.

- These Auxiliary presentations not only enriched the collective knowledge of participants but also fostered a sense of camaraderie and collaboration among auxiliaries, enabling them to learn from each other's experiences and successes.

Interactions with Auxiliary Secretaries and Marketing Staff:

The APW featured discussions that encouraged participants to deliberate deeper into critical topics. One of the central debates revolved around the balance between distribution and contribution as core aspects of BSI's ministry. These discussions revealed diverse perspectives and a nuanced understanding of BSI's income sources. They underscored the interdependence of both distribution and contribution for sustainability.

The interactions and discussions served as a platform for participants to critically assess their Auxiliary's strengths and weaknesses and identify areas for improvement. They also encouraged Auxiliaries to embrace a holistic approach to ministry, recognising that sustainability is not solely dependent on one aspect but on a well-balanced combination of efforts. The role of Central office departments and how Auxiliaries can be supported to increase the incomes were discussed.

Bible Sundays and creating Church Relation for ANI Associate Auxiliary:

One of the standout achievements of the APW was the active participation of all the participants such as Directors, Auxiliary Secretaries, Marketing Colleagues with ANI Associate Auxiliary, which organised over

35 Bible Sundays throughout Port Blair. This initiative served as a practical demonstration of dedication and effective planning, showcasing the impact that a well-executed Bible Sunday can have on the local population.

- Community Engagement: Bible Sundays served as powerful tools for community engagement. They provided a platform for members of the community to come together, celebrate the Bible, and engage in meaningful conversations.

- Promotion of BSI Products: Bible Sundays were also instrumental in promoting BSI products.

- Local Relevance: The success of ANI Auxiliary's Bible Sundays highlighted the importance of tailoring these events to local needs and preferences. By integrating local culture and traditions, the auxiliary created an experience that resonated deeply with the people of Port Blair.

“Give God
what's right
and not
what's left”



TELUGU TRANSLITERATED BIBLE: THOUGHT, TRAVEL AND TESTIMONY

Rev. John Basy Paul–Auxiliary Secretary–BSI TS

On the 28th October 2023 we released the first ever Transliterated Bible in an Indian Language. Transliterated Telugu Bible will be a blessing for Telugu speaking community in the cosmopolitan cities and in Diaspora. Telugu is a spoken language for around 75 million people living in India and around the world. Telugu Bible is the highest distributed Bible among Indian languages and globally it is in the 8th place.

After joining as Auxiliary Secretary of Telangana State in 2018, in my quiet time, God showed me the following verse ‘The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found...’ (Luke 4:17) and gave me the following commandment Make the Scroll Readable, Reachable and Relevant to this ‘Generation of Scrollers.’

My interaction with youngsters made me realize their struggle to read the Bible in Telugu language. Due to English medium education and other complexities a vast number of people cannot read Telugu but speak the language fluently. This is a unique group, who cannot read Telugu and cannot fully understand in English what they are reading. English for us is just a subject but Telugu is

our heart language. In such a context the idea to transliterate the Telugu Bible emerged. I shared this with a couple of like-minded people and got a positive response. One among them was Dr. Raj Kumar from Epistles Book Hub who instantly gave a bulk order and deposited the advances. In March 2019 on Ash Wednesday, we had our first meeting with a group of proof readers. We proofread the transliterated text with Telugu Bible and did the corrections manually. COVID happening was a blessing in disguise. We got enough time to proofread the text manually multiple times.

The biggest challenge was to carry forward the corrections in the computer. At that time Mr. James Jayachandra played a key role in doing all the corrections in the system. We did five readings and revisions on the system and the final text was ready by September 2022. We had a major setback as all the corrections done in Microsoft Word should have been done in the Paratext Software. Mr. James and I then learned Paratext software intensively and when the MS Word text was transferred into Paratext, shockingly there were about 86,000 errors to rectify. God gave us the strength and the zeal to move on with the corrections on the Paratext Software. It took us another six months, to get the first dummy copy. The day I received a copy of the dummy Mr. James had a mild heart attack and underwent an angioplasty. He was saved and now shares a testimony that God saved him just for the purpose of work on Transliteration Bible.

The project was finished in 3 years 6 months with minimal expenditure. It was our humble effort to make the Bible Readable to the next generation. There were times I was disheartened and cried, I thought of quitting but at every moment I saw God’s intervention and assurance. This journey made me rediscover my relationship with the Word and God. On the day of the Bible release I had several emotional moments remembering how God gave a thought and I travelled clinging on to it and made it into a testimony for lifetime. More

than seven hundred and fifty people received a free copy of the transliterated Telugu Bible on the day of Release. 750+ people standing in a church holding Bibles high in their hands is a visual wonder and it's a vision of God. Finally, He must Increase, I must decrease (John 3:30) the Word of God must reach a maximum of readers.

I thank the General Secretary Rev. Dr. Kavito G. Zhimo and the Directors of the Bible Society of India for their timely help at all crucial junctures.



INTENSIVE FIELD EDUCATION OF THE STUDENTS OF UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE – A STATEMENT FROM THE STUDENTS

We the students of United Theological College as part of our Intensive Field Education for the Academic year 2023 - 2024 with the Bible Society of India share our experience. The unexpected experience led us to explore the unknown. We not only experienced Bible Society mission works but with their partner organizations who care for the destitute, special people, and stigmatized people, our exposure gave us a deep-rooted commitment to our ongoing ministerial training. We have learned that there are people who need to be seen, heard and taken care of in this world and this exposure surely has ingrained the need into our hearts. We as a team can testify that we are now more

eager to know more and put it into practice as we continue to do the ministry which God has for us.

We were also very lucky to be part of Bible Society's activities and from their daily devotion we learned how important it is to be deeply rooted in the Word of God. We've learned that engaging with the Bible translation has the intrinsic relationship between the biblical language and the local language, which needs utmost care to bring out the closest and the most meaningful words for the common people. We have also been sensitized to be very vocal about the importance and sensitivity of Bible translation work in our Christian ministry.



With regard to our exposure visits to the BSI Partner organizations, we learned that love is the only way to do God's will. We were lucky enough to have sufficient exposure to different groups of communities. As part of a critical evaluation, we can say that vocational volunteering, if not for a full-time calling, is a very crucial ministry to get engaged in and to give meaning to people who are wholly or partly dependent on others due to physical, mental or psychological challenges. More so, it is important to identify, accept, and recognize the differently abled in our societies and churches. We need to be loving enough to not



prioritize the rituals but rather the people. And we also learnt that stigmatization of people is a sin. During this time of learning in the field, we can say we have been enriched in our thoughts and conscience, sufficient enough to see the changes we need to make in our deeds.

We thank Bible Society of India, Auto Raja ministry of Home of Hope, Gerizim, Liza Home and Accept Ministry in Bangalore who made it possible for us to experience your love, hospitality and guidance throughout this

month. We have been enriched in knowledge and experience to remember for a lifetime. We thank the United Theological College for organizing our Intensive Field Education and providing us with these opportunities to learn and to apply it to our theological discourse. We as a team will do our best to carry forward these practical experiences into praxis – Mr. J. Yesurathnam (BD 3 – Team Leader), Mr. Bian Chelchak A. Sangma (BS I), Mr. Koushik P.J. (BD I), and Mr. J.S. Pradeep (YMCA)

“We don’t change God’s Message;
His Message changes us”

INTERNATIONAL

SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE AT VIETNAM FROM 9th TO 11th MAY 2023

The General Secretary Rev. Dr. Kavito G Zhimo with Rev. Soma Bhatkar, Sr. Auxiliary Secretary, Ranchi Auxiliary, attended the 3 days' conference on Scripture Engagement organised by UBS for Asia Pacific. Being my first exposure after I joined BSI it was a time of learning and observing and an opportunity to meet other national General Secretaries and Partners.



UNITED BIBLE SOCIETIES LITERACY TRAINING IN CAMBODIA

In June 2023, Mr Caleb Martin Hilton represented the BSI in the Asia Pacific Literacy Training organized by UBS in Cambodia. This training aimed to equip Bible Society staff with essential literacy principles and competencies



for effective project implementation. Representatives from thirteen Bible Societies in the Asia Pacific region, including literacy staff and leaders, attended the event. BSI plans to collaborate with literacy agencies and local churches to launch ten literacy programs in India through a project named "Saksharata: A Collaborative Approach for Literacy."

CEYLON BIBLE SOCIETY 211TH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

The General Secretary Rev. Dr. Kavito G Zhimo was invited to address the gathering to their 211th Annual Thanksgiving program on 13th July 2023. The General Secretary along with Rev. Dr. Along Jamir, Director (Translation) attended the program and delivered the keynote address in the presence of Bishops and many church leaders. On Sunday the 14th we attended the Ceylon Baptist Church and delivered the sermon. We also had



a session with the Auxiliary staff and exchanged our views on how Ceylon Bible Society can improve taking the model of BSI. They also sought our support for providing Bibles to the Tamil speaking people. We are working as to how we can help them in all possible ways as the country as a whole and particularly Ceylon Bible society is going through a financial crisis due to social and political unrest in the country

ASIA PACIFIC CATHOLIC AFFINITY GROUP

The United Bible Society - Asia Pacific Region organised a meeting of the ASIA PACIFIC CATHOLIC AFFINITY GROUP in Jakarta, Indonesia from 20-21 July 2023 to have a review of its project called “Identity:Identified



- Come Follow Me” , which is a special edition of the New Testament, designed for the Youth. The meeting discussed in detail

about launching globally and in different parts of Asia. Dr. Hrangthan Chhungi, Associate Director, Church, Public Relations and Resource Mobilisation represented the Bible Society of India

ASIA PACIFIC GENERAL SECRETARY’S MEET AT MONGOLIA FROM 14TH TO 18TH AUGUST 2023

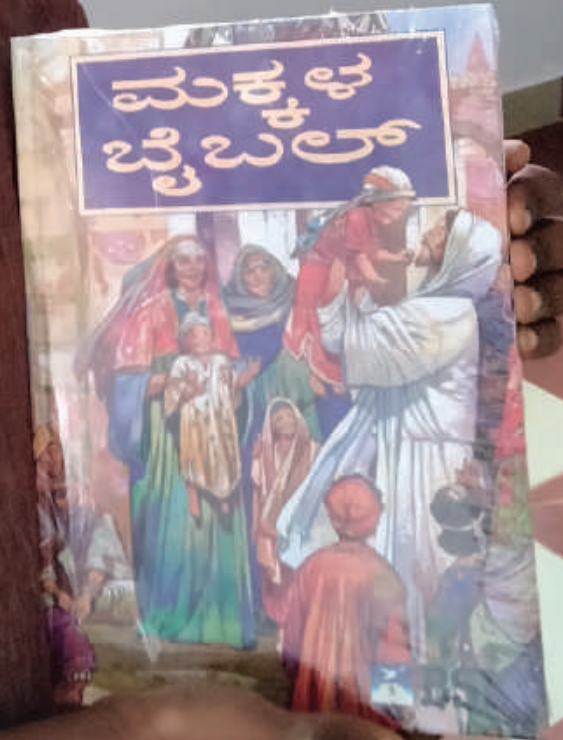
The 4 day meet for the Asia Pacific was attended by 23 General Secretaries and members of United Bible Societies headed by the Secretary General Rev. Dirk Gevers. The main concern of the gathering was to have better relationship amongst the General Secretaries in the region



and preparation for the UBS World Assembly, which was held at Netherland from 13th to 18th October 2023.

“God doesn’t call the qualified; He qualifies the called”

“The Lord
is good to all,
and His mercy
is over all
that He
has made”



AIZAWL AUXILIARY

Free Distribution of Bibles to Theological Students

On 5th July, 2023 the Bible Society of India, Aizawl Auxiliary distributed NRSV Bibles and Hindi Bibles for free to 17 students of Bachelor of Missiology, who are being trained for Missionary service at Missionary Training College, Mission Vengthlang, Aizawl. The distribution programme was led by Rev. Dr. C. Lalramchhana, Principal, MTC. Rev. Remlalfaka, Auxiliary Secretary, after delivering a short speech, distributed the Bibles to the students.



On August 3, 2023, BSI Aizawl Auxiliary distributed 18 Hebrew OT and 39 Greek NT among students of Aizawl Theological College (ATC). The distribution programme was led by Prof. Dr. Lalrindiki Ralte, Dean of Post-Graduate Studies, ATC. Rev. Remlalfaka, Auxiliary Secretary delivered a message concerning the ministry of the Bible Society after which Rev. Dr. Vanlalnghaka Ralte, Auxiliary President distributed the Bibles to the students.

On 19th October 2023, the Bible Society of India, Aizawl Auxiliary distributed free Hebrew OT and Greek NT Bibles to the students of

Academy Of Integrated Christian Studies (AICS). The distribution programme was led by Rev. Dr. Vanlaldika, Principal, AICS and Rev. Remlalfaka, Auxiliary Secretary delivered a short speech.



The Bible Society of India, Aizawl Auxiliary was very pleased to have the opportunity to give Hebrew Bibles and Greek NTs to the theological students within Aizawl Auxiliary. The Theological Colleges also expressed their gratitude towards the BSI for presenting them the much-needed Bibles to the students for free.

BESY Choir 2023-2025 Installation Service
The Installation service for the Standing Choir

of the Bible Society of India 'the BESY Choir' for the term 2023-2025 was held on the 18th July, 2023 at Bungawn Presbyterian Church Hall. The service was chaired by Rev Remlalfaka, Auxiliary Secretary and Chairperson, Auxiliary Youth Committee. Mr LalrintluangaVarte, Chief Coordinator, introduced the newly appointed Choir members. Installation of the new Choir members was done by Rev. Dr. Vanlalnghaka Ralte, Auxiliary President who also delivered a short message for the Choir members.



Orientation Meeting for MJWF Leaders

Orientation Meeting for the newly elected leaders of the Mary Jones Women's Fellowship of Aizawl Auxiliary for the term 2023-2026 was held on July 20, 2023 (Thursday) at the new Bible House building (Warehouse). The meeting was led by Mrs. C. Zothankimi, Working Chairperson, MJWF. Rev. Dr. Vanlalnghaka Ralte, Auxiliary President delivered a short message. Rev. Remlalfaka, Chairperson of MJWF and Auxiliary Secretary gave a detail presentation on the BSI ministry and its objective as well as the purpose and responsibilities of the MJWF. Leaders of the MJWF were enlightened and motivated in their endeavour to work for the Bible cause as they prepare for the new term.



Orientation Meeting for Youth Leaders

Orientation meeting for the newly elected Youth Committee members of the Aizawl Auxiliary was held on July 18, 2023 at General Committee Room of the Bungawn Presbyterian Church. The meeting was led by Upa Vanlalhruaia, Working Chairperson. Rev. Remlalfaka, Auxiliary Secretary spoke on important matters concerning the Youth ministry of the Bible Society and responsibilities of the Youth leaders. The meeting was also attended by Rev. Dr. Vanlalnghaka Ralte, President, Aizawl Auxiliary. He delivered a short message. We are grateful that the Youth leaders were able to have a good time of fellowship and lively interactions which will surely enhance the BSI Youth ministry in the time to come.



MJWF Fundraising Programme

The MJWF BSI Aizawl Auxiliary had a fundraising programme on the 19th October, 2023 for the on-going Bible House construction. The MJWF Committee members contributed



their handmade artstries to raise funds. The total collected fund was remarkable. The BSI is really thankful to all the contributors for their generosity for the Bible cause.



Darlawn Branch Annual Meeting

The BSI, Darlawn Branch had its Annual Meet on 14-15 Oct, 2023 at Darlawn Venghlun Presbyterian Church, Darlawn. Many delegates from different Areas under Darlawn Branch participated in the Annual Meet. The Auxiliary Secretary, Rev. Remlalfaka was the speaker and he was accompanied by Mr Vanlalzahawma, Office Asst. and Mr Lalramtana, the Auxiliary driver.

The Annual Meet programme included reports from Areas, Branch and the Auxiliary. We also had 13 choirs from different Churches and

Areas during this Meet. It was wonderful to see how people gathered with passion for the Bible ministry. The Aizawl Auxiliary feels blessed to have volunteers in the Branches who serve faithfully and tirelessly for the BSI ministry.



ANDHRA PRADESH AUXILIARY

Joint Programme for Scripture Engagement

The Andhra Pradesh Auxiliary and North West India Auxiliary of BSI, jointly organized programs with children and women at Amritsar on 10th and 11th June while the events were hosted by the CNI Amritsar Diocese. As a token of love, school bags, children Bibles, blankets, towels and ration were presented to the participants. The Most Rev. Samantaroy, Bishop in Amritsar Diocese and local churches had extended their support to make the programs successful and effective. The BSI AP Auxiliary had raised 5 lakhs as a special fund for this program.





“He who kneels before God can stand before anyone”

Conference

In commemoration of St. Thomas the Apostle, the Bible Society of India Andhra Pradesh Auxiliary organised a conference in the premises of St. Paul’s CSI Church in Visakhapatnam on 3rd July with the partners and supporters of BSI.

Opening of New Branches

During the months of July and September, 2023 the AP Auxiliary inaugurated new BSI branches at Sompeta and Hindupur and initiated a new branch at Ichapuram.



Bible Exhibitions

During the months of July, September and October, 2023 the AP Auxiliary had



conducted Bible Exhibitions in Sompeta, Ichapuram, Srisailam (Sundipenta), Hindupur and Anantapur.

Help for the Victims of Violence in Manipur State

In the month of August 2023, the Bible Society of India Andhra Pradesh Auxiliary received nearly 17 lakhs from churches and individuals to extend support to the victims of violence in Manipur State in North East India. It was a visible and vibrant expression to join hands in solidarity with the victimized community. The AP Auxiliary had ministered to the victims in collaboration with Dimapur, Shillong and Aizawl Auxiliaries.





Auxiliary Leaders, Wolf's Students Chaplain Rev. V. Adam, local pastors and leaders at Wolf's Students Chapel, Guntur.

Annual Thanksgiving & Branch Officer's Conference

The Andhra Pradesh Auxiliary of BSI held their Annual Thanksgiving & Branch Officer's Conference on 23 & 24 October at Rev. Dr.

National Bible Fair-2023

On September 1-3, 2023 the National Bible Fair-2023 was inaugurated by Rev. Dr. Leelavathi Vemuri, BSI National President and The Most Rev. Dr. K. F. Paradesi Babu, Moderator- Bishop, AELC in the presence of BSI AP Auxiliary President Bro. M. Johnson, BSI Publishing & Marketing Director, Mr. Paul Stephen, Auxiliary Secretary Rev. K. John Vikram, AELC Office Bearers and BSI AP





P.N.S. Chandra Bose Memorial Hall, AP Auxiliary Office, Bible house, Chowdavaram, Guntur. Rev. Dr. Leelavathi Vemuri, BSI National President, Rev. Dr. Kavito G. Zhimo, BSI General Secretary, Rt. Rev. Dr. P. Isaac Vara Prasad, National Executive Member, AP Auxiliary Office Bearers, Auxiliary Committee Members and Branch Officials from across the state participated in the conference.



ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

Thanks for Conducting the BSI Annual Planning Workshop in Andaman

We express our heartfelt and sincere gratitude to our General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Kavito G. Zhimo, for entrusting us with the responsibility of hosting the BSI Annual Planning Workshop from September 13 – 17, 2023 in our Associate Auxiliary, Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands. We are grateful to Mr. Paul Stephen, Director, Publishing & Marketing Department for his leadership in the planning and coordination of the entire program. We are extremely honoured and happy to have had this privilege to serve our GS and Central office leaders and many of our colleagues across the 17 Auxiliaries in our Islands. The keynote address and the session by our GS provided valuable insights and encouragement to us. We are truly grateful for the enlightening sessions by all the Auxiliaries, sharing work experiences and giving us such supportive environment.

APW Inaugural Session with Pastors and the 'Bible Sunday'

The highlight and beauty of this APW – 2023 in Port Blair was the wonderful fellowship with the local church leaders. Despite the challenging weather conditions, it was appreciated that all the pastors made it a point to attend the inaugural session. The positive response received from Church Leaders who graciously welcomed the colleagues of the BSI for Bible Sunday was very encouraging. It was a truly blessed and memorable experience for all.



We pray that God would continue to bless and use these Islands as a channel of His blessings. The encouraging prayers of the BSI Board Members and presence of ANI Associate Auxiliary Committee Members resulted in successfully hosting of the APW in these scenic Islands. We are grateful to God who provided all resources and wisdom to do the best for the Bible Cause. May all the glory and honour be to God the Almighty.



Church, Public Relations and Resource Mobilisation Programmes with Scripture Engagement

With a grateful heart, the ANIs Associate Auxiliary thanks to the CPRRM Associate Director Dr. Hrangthan Chhungi for taking a session in APW and also conducting extensive programmes in the Andaman Islands, reaching out to the very interior parts of the Islands to meet and encourage our donors and well wishers during September 16 – 23, 2023. We were praying and planning for this program for the last 2 years and it happened in God's own time. Many programmes were conducted in the churches and meet significant individuals in South, Middle and North Islands of Andaman travelling many miles across the land and seas. Dr. Chhungi's powerful sharing of the Word of God, intertwined with the work of the BSI, was particularly impactful, especially when she shared her testimony. We believe that her visit and meeting will yield fruitful results in the days to come. We are grateful for the free distribution of the Bibles to the deserving members in the Tamil Methodist Church at Shoal Bay and to all the staff of Hotel Peerless Resort under the CPRRM Scripture engagement program during the Annual Planning Workshops.



BOMBAY AUXILIARY

On June 21, 2023, in the historical “Christ Church” in the city of Ahmednagar, Maharashtra the English - Marathi Diglot Bible and Marathi thumb index Bible was released by The Rt. Rev. Bishop Sharad Gaikwad, Bishop of Nasik Diocese and Rev. Gershombhai Khristi, Auxiliary Secretary (pro-tem) BSI, Bombay Auxiliary in the presence of Christian Community of Ahmednagar region. Rev. John Prabhakar, (Presbyter-in-charge) of Christ Church appreciated the work of BSI and expressed deep gratitude for the release of Marathi thumb index and English/Marathi diglot Holy Bibles. About 200-250 people were present in this event and the whole Christian community in this region were overjoyed. The Bombay Auxiliary is so thankful to all volunteers and staff of BSI who work ceaselessly for giving us these two new editions for the Marathi speaking community.



“Compassion is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back”



Installation Program Of Rev. Clement Christian As Auxiliary Secretary Bombay Auxiliary (Maharashtra And Goa)

The installation service of Rev. Clement M. Christian was held at YMCA Mumbai Central on September 30, 2023 at 12:30 PM. Eminent guests such as Christian leaders, pastors, heads of Christian institutions, Committee Members of the BSI Bombay Auxiliary, staff, branch members from different branches, donors and friends of BSI were present.

The service was beautifully conducted by Mrs. Mridula Ghodke. The opening prayer was offered by Rev. Nana Dar, President of Bombay Auxiliary. Staff of BSI Bombay auxiliary led in worship songs. Respected General Secretary of the Bible Society of India, Rev. Dr. Kavito G. Zhimo shared from Psalm 127 and emphasized on the centrality of God in all things. He encouraged Rev. Clement M. Christian for the new responsibility in Bombay Auxiliary.



The officers of Bombay Auxiliary presented Rev. Clement Christian for installation. The General Secretary of the Bible Society of India conducted the installation service. Prayer of dedication was offered by Bishop Rt. Rev. Silvans Christian. After the service the General Secretary, Auxiliary Secretary, and Auxiliary Secretary (Pro tem) were felicitated by different branch members and the supporters of BSI.

Rev. Clement Christian thanked God for giving him this opportunity and he promised to remain faithful in his call. Rev. Gershombhai Khristi gave the vote of thanks. Bishop Rt. Rev. Silvans Christian concluded the service with prayer and benediction.



A small prayer service was also organised in BSI office at Fort Mumbai. Act of installation of the Auxiliary Secretary to the official chair was done by the General Secretary of the Bible Society of India with prayer.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks by Rev. Gershombhai Khristi Auxiliary Secretary (Pro tem) and Rev. Clement Christian, Auxiliary Secretary and prayer and benediction by Bishop Rt. Rev. Silvans Christian.



Profile of Rev. Clement M. Christian

Rev. Clement Christian is an Ordained CNI pastor and has been involved in the pastoral ministry with Church of North India, Gujarat Diocese since June 2007. He worked as a Pastor in different parts of Gujarat such as Jamnagar, Junagadh, Verval, Porbandar, Rajkot, Bharunch and Nadiad. He has also served in the ministry of the Bible Society of India through Gujarat Auxiliary, as the president of the Junagadh branch from 2011 to 2013, and as president of Bharuch branch from 2013 to 2017. He is an active member of the Nadiad Branch now. He was also involved in translation ministry with Christian Lingua. And prior to applying for the post of Auxiliary Secretary, Bombay Auxiliary, he was working as the presbyter-in-charge of CNI Nadiad Church. He is well versed in Gujarati, Hindi, English and also in Marathi. He has done MA in English Literature from the Sourashtra University and the Bachelor of Divinity from the Union Biblical Seminary. He is 48 years and is married to Mrs Jennifer Christian who is a practicing advocate in Nadiad District Court. They are blessed with a daughter Ruth who is studying in the Junior college of Wilson College, Mumbai.

He is appointed as the Auxiliary Secretary, Bombay Auxiliary with effect from October 1, 2023 and he took over the mantle from Rev. Gershombhai Khristi the Pro-tem Auxiliary Secretary, Bombay Auxiliary from the October 3, 2023.

Ahmednagar Branch Visit:

The BSI Bombay Auxiliary visited the Ahmednagar branch and churches on October 20-22, 2023. The first meeting was held on the 20th evening with the branch members of Ahmednagar, followed by a visit of some of our donors and supporters of BSI.





The Bible exhibition cum sale was arranged at the First Church of Ahmednagar (CNI) on October 21, 2023. A meeting with pastors, leaders, donors, and branch members at Christ Church, Bhingar, Ahmednagar with fellowship lunch was appreciated and we had a good time of interaction and discussion for the vision and prospects of the BSI in this area. Personal visits to some of our BSI supporters were very encouraging for all of us. On the 22, we celebrated Bible Sunday in St. Savior's Cathedral and in the First Church of Ahmednagar. The Bombay Auxiliary Secretary, Rev Clement Christian preached in these two churches. At the First Church of Ahmednagar, a Bible exhibition cum sale was also arranged. There was a good response from the congregation in terms of sales and donations. The account manager Mr. Shantwan Raiborde and other staff made great efforts for the success of the three days' programmes. The support received from the BSI Ahmednagar branch members was greatly appreciated.

CALCUTTA AUXILIARY

William Carey Lecture

Every year the Calcutta Auxiliary hosts a William Carey Lecture in honor of William Carey the theologian, translator, and social reformer. This year on 17th August 2023 a lecture was held at the Bible House where about 60 people gathered to give thanks to God for a



life that offered so much to the Christian witness in India and for the various contributions made to social transformation in the country.

William Carey, often referred to as the “Father of Modern Missions,” was born in 1761 in a humble village in England. From his early years, he displayed an insatiable curiosity and a deep sense of purpose. His journey took him from being a shoemaker to becoming a renowned linguist, scholar, and missionary trailblazer. Carey championed the idea that the Gospel message should reach every corner of the world. He famously declared, “Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God.” This rallying cry epitomized his ethos of unwavering faith and determination. One of Carey’s most significant contributions was his pioneering efforts in linguistic studies and Bible translation.

His translation work extended beyond the written word; it was a bridge connecting diverse cultures to the life-changing truths of the Gospel. The event began with a hymn sung by the audience led by the staff of the Calcutta Auxiliary. A prayer was offered by Rev. Tapas Mondal, President, Calcutta Auxiliary.

Dr. Suranjan Middey, a renowned scholar and historian of the Carey legacy presented the life of William Carey through a lens that showcased the lesser known facts about the work of William Carey.

- William translated the Hindu classic, the Ramayana, into English.
- He also translated the Bible into English.
- William translated these texts into multiple Indian languages, including Bengali, Oriya, Assamese, Marathi, and Sanskrit.
- 1801: Governor-General establishes Fort William College for civil servant education.
- William offered the position of Bengali professor.

- William’s colleagues included pundits for Bengali correction.
- A pundit by the name of Madan Mohan Tarkalankar taught William Sanskrit.
- William used his influence with the Governor General, Richard Wellesley to end infant sacrifice and suttee.
- 1818: Serampore College was founded to train ministers and provide education.
- 1827: Granted royal charter, becoming Asia’s first degree-granting institution.

Bible Exhibition

The Calcutta Auxiliary’s Exhibition and Sale, held from September 18th to 22nd, 2023, created a buzz of excitement. These quarterly events, organized at the office and other locations, serve as a vibrant platform for people to explore the diverse categories, languages, and types of Bibles available.



This particular sale not only promoted our mission but also facilitated connections with numerous churches and individuals, amplifying the enthusiasm surrounding the event. It was wonderful to have the President of the Auxiliary Committee Rev. Tapas Mondal visit and encourage the staff. It was also good to have on display the Bengali Study Bible and other material. We thank our General Secretary for his support in these endeavours. A special thanks to the Director - Publishing & Marketing for the support in conducting these Exhibitions.

DIMAPUR AUXILIARY:

Promotional Seminars - BSI Peren Branch:

The BSI Peren Branch Seminar was held on 11th May 2023 at Peren Town Baptist Church from 10:00-12:30 PM, attended by 22 pastors from Peren Town. Rev. Dr. Yiepetso Wezah, Auxiliary Secretary and Mr. Marwati, Assistant Officer served as resource persons. Rev Dr. Wezah shared about the ministry of the BSI with its Church relations and Scripture engagement activities, the people were amazed and realized how important the BSI ministry is for the Christian community. There is a great hope that the Peren Town Baptist Church will actively participate in the financial campaigns and activities of the BSI ministry from now on.

BSI Kohima Branch Study Tour:

With a motive to learn how the BSI Aizawl Auxiliary excels for decades together in their fundraising activities for the BSI ministry of Translation, Production and Distribution, six members from Kohima Branch and Auxiliary Secretary visited Aizawl Auxiliary from 27th -29th May 2023. The members are Mr. Those Kraho, President, Mr. Keyielie Rutsa, Chaplain, Mr. S. S. Chaidak Phom, Mr. Heshito Shohe, Rev. Vevotsu Rhakho and Rev. Dr. Yiepetso Wezah.



The Dimapur Auxiliary Kohima Branch team came to understand the strength of the Aizawl Auxiliary as Rev. Dr. Wezah reported saying:

“On 28th May the team attended two big churches - Baptist Church of Mizoram, Central Church, Aizawl in the morning and Presbyterian Church in the evening. Both the Churches were full. We had interactions with the leaders of the Churches. They told us that BSI was founded by the Church and the Church takes full responsibility to support the ministry of the BSI. It is interesting to note how each one takes part in BSI ministry, for instance, even the home maker mothers collect money or any material gift every month to support the ministry of the BSI. They said that they do it because BSI is a missional society.”

On 29th May 2023, the team joined the BSI Staff in their morning devotion followed by a wonderful interaction with Office Bearers of Aizawl South –III Branch.

The Aizawl South – III Branch leaders said, “BSI is a Church movement. Hence, Churches appoint local committees to raise funds. Every believer is involved in BSI ministry.” We thank God and Aizawl Auxiliary for giving us the opportunity to learn many good things.

Laying Of New Bible House Foundation

The Bible Society of India, Dimapur Auxiliary laid the Foundation Stone for the construction of New Bible House on 14th June 2023. The event was graced by members of Auxiliary Committee, Property Management and Pastors from Dimapur Town. Rev. Dr. N. Paphino, Auxiliary President moderated the programme. Pastor Thenjamo Tsanglao, President Dimapur Pastors’ Fellowship offered prayer for laying of Foundation Stone and Rev. Dr. Kavito G. Zhimo, General Secretary, the BSI unveiled Foundation Stone.

Rev. Dr. Yiepetso Wezah, Auxiliary Secretary shared the purpose of the building. Er. John Stephen, Director Property Management, BSI and Er. Kenyilo Rengma shared the prospect of the Bible House. Mr. Those Kraho, Vice President proposed Vote of thanks and Rev. Tenga Seb, Auxiliary Treasurer pronounced benediction.



BSI Medziphema Branch:

On 16th June 2023, the BSI Medziphema Branch organized promotional seminar at Ao Baptist Church. Altogether 51 Pastors, Women and Youth Pastors from 21 Churches participated in the seminar. Pastor Vicha Angami, Secretary of the Branch moderated the session. Rev. Zhabu Therhuja, President Medziphema Pastors’ Fellowship invoked God’s presence and Mr. Benjamin, President welcomed the delegates. Pastor Edechoi Rose presented a very special song.



Rev. Dr. Yiepetso Wezah, Auxiliary Secretary shared the importance of Church participation in the ministry of the BSI. The main ministry of BSI being a missional society is Translation, Production, Distribution and engagement with God’s Word, BSI reaches out to many people with God’s Word. Mr. Marwati, Asst. Officer shared the role of the Branches. He challenged leaders of the Churches to share the ministry with their respective members. Special prayer for Manipur situation and BSI ministry was offered. The BSI is thankful to Ao Baptist Church for hosting the seminar.

BIBLE RELEASE

Sekhose Ketshe

(Khezha/Khuzha/Kuzha) New Testament was released on July 15, 2023 at Chakhesang Baptist Church Council at Pioneers' Conference Hall. Rev. Neingupe Chiero, Convener, CBCC Gospel Literature Board chaired the ceremony. Rev. Dr. Chekroveyi Cho-O Executive Secretary, CBCC welcomed members and highlighted the programme. Rev. Kevengoi Sakhamo, Convener of CBCC Goodwill Mission shared words of encouragement. Rev. Dr. Zhodi Angami, Associate Translation Director, Shillong share the Word of God and released the Sekhose Ketshe.



The First Thangkhal Holy Bible:

The first ever Thangkhal Holy Bible was released on the 17th October 2023 at TBC Central Church, Tuibuang. The word 'Thangkhal' is derived from the village name in the eastern side of Manipur state, in which the Zous and Sukte tribes settled together in olden days. Haidawi, Khodai, Khuongnung, Tungkuo and Thangkhal are considered as the composite dialects of Zou tribe. Pro-Pastor Dr. Kammuanmung moderated the releasing programme. Rev. Genzattung invoked God's blessings and Upa Hangkhangkhuup welcomed the gathering. A special song was presented by TBC Male Voice. Greetings were

brought by Rev. Dr. Yiepetso Wezah Auxiliary Secretary, Dimapur and Elder R. Vanlaltlana, Senior Translation Adviser, Shillong. Rev. Dr. Vanmawia, Auxiliary Committee Member, Dimapur shared words of encouragement. Upa. Thangkhanmangh, President, TBC and TBC IFCA-I Head Office shared a short reflection on God's Word. Pastor Thangdoulal, Translator gave the translation report.

Rev. Dr. Kavito Zhimo, General Secretary, BSI released the Thangkhal Holy Bible and Rev. Dr. Along Jamir, Director Translation shared the Word of God. Rev. T. Chinmilian expressed words of gratitude by acknowledging the people who played vital roles for the Thangkhal Holy Bible. Rev. Thanglet, Area Pastor pronounced Benediction. (Due to crisis in Manipur, staff of Central Office, Shillong Translation Centre and Dimapur Auxiliary could not be present physically, therefore a pre-recorded video was played during the Release Programme).

BSI Medziphema Branch Observes 36th Foundation Day

The Bible Society of India Medziphema Branch observed 36th Foundation Day on 20th July 2023 at Christian Revival Church, Loliba, Medziphema. Altogether 16 Churches from different denominations attended the programme. Pastor Anungba Ao, Treasurer of the Branch chaired the programme. Mr. Benjamin Lotha, Branch President expressed words of welcome and gave the keynote address for Foundation Day. The Medziphema Branch was formed on 20th July 1987 at Medziphema Town 'A' Baptist Church. He said that they were happy to be part of the BSI ministry through prayers and donation for the distribution of God's Word to people. It is a missionary work, hence he challenged Churches to actively engage in this ministry. Mr. Arho, Pastor, Sepruoliezie Baptist Church reminiscenced of the first foundation day. He said that the BSI brought many Bibles for display. It was a

surprise for people to see that the BSI could produce many good Bible editions. Rev. Dr. Yiepetso Wezah, Auxiliary Secretary shared the Word of God on the topic “God’s Word is a living Word”. He stated that God’s Word works wonders in the lives of people if they believe that it is the living Word of God. It is living and active in transforming people’s lives (Heb. 4:12). The Churches and the BSI must provide the living Word of God to everyone so that they will find salvation in Christ.

of Sumi Baptist Church pronounced the benediction. Mr. Benjamin Lotha and family hosted the 36th Thanksgiving Day Feast.

The Paite Bible OV Re-Edited

The Paite Bible OV Re-Edited was dedicated on 24th July 2023 at 7:00 PM at Central Auditorium Gospel Centenary Hall, New Lamka, Churachandpur. The Central Choir, Evangelical Baptist Convention (EBC) presented a special song. Rev. Dr. S. Vung Minthang, General Secretary EBC dedicated the Paite Bible and Executive Chairman, EBC handed over one Bible each to the Checking Committee Members.

34th BSI Kohima Branch Foundation Day

The BSI Kohima Branch observed 34th Foundation Day on 6th August 2023 at Lerie Baptist Church. The Branch was inaugurated on 6th August 1989 at the Union Baptist Church, Kohima. The first officials were



Pastor Megovoto, Medziphema Village Baptist Church offered the opening prayer. Songs of praises were presented by the youth of Christian Revival Church, Loliba and Medziphema Town Baptist Church. Pastor Suraij, Nepali Baptist Church and Pastor Jangkhokin Hoakip, Kuki Baptist Church read the Word of God. Mr. Sieyevikho Pastor CRC Town prayed for the offering. Rev. R. V. Viheshe Zhimomi, Pastor

Rev. Deo Vihienuo, President, Rev. Khrotso Mero, Secretary, Rev. Zanao Lotha Treasurer. From 2017 – 2018 financial year the Branch has been actively engaged in visiting Churches, conducting Seminars, orientation-cum-workshops, Monthly Prayer Fellowships and exposure trips. Since 2017-2018, the Branch has the highest contribution among the Branches under Dimapur Auxiliary. Today, as the Branch retrospects and gives thanks to God for his faithfulness and thanks all the Churches and individuals for their generous contributions. The Branch expressed gratitude to Lerie Baptist Church for hosting this special occasion.

CBLT Pastors Fellowship:

On 19th September 2023 the Chang Baptist Lashong Thangyen (CBLT), Tuensang had Pastor's Review Programme at the Mission Centre Tuensang Town. Altogether 55 Pastors under the Association attended the programme. Mr. Marwati Asst. Officer shared about the Bible Society Ministry and the importance of Church participation in BSI. The CBLT Association assured their commitment to observe Bible Sunday and support BSI ministry.

BSI Jalukie Branch: On 10th October 2023 the BSI Jalukie Branch organized promotional Seminar at Tenyimi Baptist Church, 87 Pastors and leaders from different Churches attended the seminar. Auxiliary Secretary and Asst. Officer served as resource persons. They shared the importance of participation in the ministry of the BSI as it is a missional society. It's target is to reach God's Word to all the people with the support of individual believers and Churches. After sharing the BSI ministry, there was a good time of discussion on the need to support the ministry of the BSI as the BSI helps in a transformation of individual and social life through God's Word. The positive response observed from this church fosters the hope of increased support.

Relief Work Among Manipur Victims

As it was not possible to physically visit Manipur's violent areas, the Dimapur Auxiliary on behalf of the Central Office, BSI distributed certain amount of money to the Church organizations to extend help to the victims of the Manipur violence, such as BSI Churachandpur Branch, Kuki Baptist Convention, Kuki Christian





Church and Manipur Baptist Convention. They expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Bible Society of India for helping them in the ime of crisis. They assured us that they will be praying for the ministry of the BSI. The BSI Dimapur Auxiliary also expressed its sincere thanks to the leadership of the BSI for helping the people in time of crisis.

GUJARAT AUXILIARY

Scripture Engagement

We are indeed grateful to the Lord for Gujarat Auxiliary of the Bible Society of India, for enabling us to have the opportunity of Scripture engagement in various ways with the Christian community in Gujarat State. The people are really blessed by reading and meditating on the Word of God in their day to day devotion by following the BSI Bible Reading Card.

In the month of May, the BSI Gujarat Auxiliary had the opportunity to have Scripture engagement and celebrating Bible Sunday in different churches. They were truly thankful to all the churches, their pastors, committee members and the congregations for extending their support for the BSI ministry in various ways. Churches such as Shalom Church of Gandhidham, CNI Church Govind Talav and the CNI Church Aretth & Kosimda.

In the same month on May 26th they had the privilege to go to Sabarkantha District in North Gujarat to join the Vocational Bible School. Meeting with the Children and teachers and

Church leaders was a great joy. They had the privilege of giving them Bible comics for children and Bibles to all the teenagers and their teachers. The rapport and relationship built will take them closer to God's Word and to the ministry of the Bible Society. They are the future of the BSI ministry in Gujarat Auxiliary.

On May 31st 2023, a Church leaders meeting was arranged in North Gujarat at Agasvan for it's surrounding community. 60 people attended the meeting from different Churches. Bishop Silvans Christian was invited as a speaker and he earnestly encouraged the Church leaders, Branch leadership and church women. Significantly, on this occasion, two



new branches of the BSI were formed. We look forward to their promotional activities, contributions and commitment for the growth of the BSI ministry in this area.

On June 3rd, 2023, the BSI Branch Meeting was arranged in Sabarkanta District, where Branch leaders, women's fellowship and all pastors, church leaders from different Churches were present. We shared the Ministry of the Bible Society and encouraged people to be part of the BSI movement by their voluntary services and giving financial support for the Bible Production, Distribution and Translation work. People are happy to have the opportunity to be part of the Bible Society ministry, each according to their capacity.



On June 25th, 2023, in Gandhidham Church, on Sunday after the Church service, we had a very meaningful Bible reading programme. In this Scripture engagement event, many church



members enthusiastically participated and everyone felt so blessed to be part of this Bible Reading set aside for congregations in the Holy sanctuary.

On July 10th, 2023, the staff visited Jivan Dwar Centre in Prantij, where the Gujarat Diocese (CNI) runs the orphanage home for children, where elderly inmates are also serving children in their own capacity. Through one of our Auxiliary Committee members and dean and incharge of Sabarkantha District area, Rev. Ranchod Gamit, the BSI was invited to have Scripture engagement programme. The BSI had the privilege of distributing the pictorial Bible among the Children and Holy Bibles to the elderly people. It was a very meaningful





Auxiliary Committee

The Auxiliary Committee meeting was held on July 25, 2023 for reflection and to plan for the future growth of the Auxiliary, and for a celebration of the 200 years of Gujarati Bible. It was decided that a celebration be held in November 2023 with Annual Thanksgiving meeting with a gathering of all Church Leaders, Branch people, Mary Jones Women's Fellowship and all prominent leaders from different churches and head of the Churches from different denomination within the Gujarat Auxiliary and with BSI Central Office leadership to celebrate the Gujarati Bible 200 years of its existence. Programme details would be set closer to the event of the celebration.

Prayer Meeting for the State of Manipur

As we are aware of the situation in Manipur, the Bible Society Gujarat Auxiliary had arranged a prayer meeting in Alliance Church Maninagar on 28th July and called Branch

time spent with them as we shared the Ministry of the Bible Society. Rev. Ranchod Gamit and his wife Rev. Clera Gamit were very grateful for the support rendered by the BSI. Rev. Ranchod Gamit was the former staff of the BSI as well. Mr. Simon and his wife volunteered themselves for this programme. They took us in their vehicle and they were fully involved in the whole programme on this blessed day. We thank God for Mrs. and Mr. Simon for their commitment for the Bible cause.



Sub-Committee Meeting

On July 11 and 19, 2023 the various Sub-Committees of the Gujarat Auxiliary were called to the Bible House to make plans for BSI future programmes and also to encourage all the sub-committee members to help the auxiliary move forward to meet the demand of our time.



people, Mary Jones Women's Fellowship and Church leaders for this meeting. Presentation of the grim reality of Manipur violence was done with PPT. We spend time in prayer for God's intervention for peace and restoration of normal life for the people of Manipur. A good number of people participated. Together with one accord, we lifted our hearts to God. We express our heartfelt thanks to all those who participated in the prayer fellowship. The Christian community was moved to hear about the monetary help rendered to the victims of Manipur violence by the BSI and also sacrifice of one day salary of the BSI Staff across Central Office and all the 17 Auxiliaries.

Bible Exhibition:

During August 15 to 20, 2023, Bible Exhibition was conducted in the Auxiliary Office. There was good response from the Christian community with good sales of varieties of Bibles.



JABALPUR AUXILIARY

Jabalpur Auxiliary Committee Meeting and Annual Thanksgiving Service

The event was held on 7th June 2023 at Bible House, Napier Town, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. The meeting commenced at 11:00 am with the devotion led by Auxiliary President, Most Rt. Rev. Manoj Charan. He emphasized on "There be no division in Church", based on the Bible Text 1 Cor Ch. 1: 10 -2: 5, applying it to the present situation. The Message of the cross is that we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. The devotion concluded with prayer by Rev. Victor Daniel (Vice President of Jabalpur Auxiliary).



In the evening at 6:30pm on 7th June, 2023, Jabalpur Auxiliary celebrated its Annual Thanksgiving Service at St. Paul's Church, Ghamapur, Jabalpur. Auxiliary President, Rt. Rev. Manoj Charan, Bishop of Bhopal Diocese was the speaker for the occasion. Members



of Auxiliary Committees, local Pastors, Dignitaries, Members of local Congregation, Mary Jones Fellowship, BSI Youth, Auxiliary Staff and their families participated.

Rev. Nilesh S. Singh (Pastor In-charge, St. Paul's Church CNI) led the program. The Choir of St. Paul's Church brought in a prayerful atmosphere by leading the Praise and Worship. Rev. Victor Daniel. (D.S, MCI Baster C.G), Mr. Sunil Masih (Auxiliary Staff), Mrs. Misha Solomon, Auxiliary Committee Member (Masihi Mandir Church, Ujjain), Rev. E. Sagar, Auxiliary Committee Member (C.C. Church Dallirajhara), Mr. Akshay Yakub, Auxiliary Committee Member (Bhopal), Rev. Arpan Tarun Auxiliary Committee Member (C.C. Church, Bhilai) and Ms. Teresa Rodrigues (Auxiliary Staff) led the Thanksgiving Service.

Rt. Rev. Manoj Charan gave a meaningful and inspiring message from the Scripture portion Matthew 7: 24 – 25. He emphasized that every individual has an important role to play in building society and God sees their efforts and rewards them.

Brief Report of the Auxiliary for the financial year 2022 - 2023 was presented by Auxiliary Secretary. Everyone appreciated the work and the ministry of BSI. Mary Jones Fellowship gave a special song. All glory to God alone. The Thanksgiving service was concluded with the Benediction pronounced by the Auxiliary President Rt. Rev. Manoj Charan.

CNI Pastor's Meeting

On June 15th, 2023, it was a joy for Jabalpur Auxiliary to host Pastor's Prayer Fellowship with the Pastors of Jabalpur Diocese, CNI. Moderator Commissary, Rt. Rev. Sameer I. Khimla, Bishop of Durgapur Diocese was the guest speaker for the occasion. More than thirty Pastors participated in the fellowship, Youth of Disciple Church of Christ CNI also took part in the program.

Praise and Worship was led by BSI Staff. This prayerful Praise & Worship helped people to experience God's presence. Rt. Rev. Sameer I. Khimla enlightened the participants from Daniel 3:19 – 25, encouraging the Pastors & BSI Staff from the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who did not compromise rather they were ready to die in the blazing furnace. Their faithfulness integrity and commitment towards God led them to witness God's presence in the blazing furnace. The speaker challenged the participants by questioning what situation, circumstances or anything compelled us to compromise, to remember that nothing is impossible for God and he is with us even when we walk through the valley of death. The message was really inspiring and everyone was blessed with the Word of God.

The Youth of Disciple Church of Christ distributed hand made stoles to all the Pastors exhibiting their concern & love for their Pastors. All the Pastors interceded for various matters and special special prayer was offered for the BSI Ministry. The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer and Benediction was pronounced by Rt. Rev. Sameer I. Khimla.

Blind Mission

Staff of the Bible Society of India Jabalpur Auxiliary had the privilege to participate in the meeting of the Blind Mission, on 15th Sept 2023 at Sneh Sadan, Civil Lines, JBP for the visually impaired children. We were happy to meet the Director of Blind Mission – Rev. Chacko Joseph of Chennai. We express our gratitude to the Field Staff Co-ordinator of Blind Mission – Mr. Dharmendra Jena of Jabalpur and State Co-ordinator of Blind Mission - Mr. Sanjeev Jena of Bhopal.

It was a very blessed experience for us to have fellowship with the visually impaired children and they were so happy to have BSI team in their midst. Staff of BSI Mr. Harish





Shrigri shared about the ministry of BSI and highlighted on the importance of our life. Everyone keenly listened to his talk. The Staff distributed Braille Bible, Braille Calendars and sticks to the visually challenged children. They all were so happy to receive it. We praise and thank God for this opportunity to be of service to the visually impaired children.

KARNATAKA AUXILIARY

Interconnecting lines in our lives can be subtle and hard to spot at times, yet they can be bright and conspicuous for others. There were moments when we struggled for different reasons at different phases, yet we experience God's grace in all the works we do.

Scripture Engagement

Keeping alive the Vision and Mission of the Bible Society we, the handmaidens of the Church have tried our best to remain faithful

to the given responsibilities in order to be witnesses of Christ in and through the work in diverse ways. We have eaten and slept with the community in the deep jungles, we have never become ill in our travels. Bible Sunday observance has produced great results. The BSI ministers to all denominations and languages in the state. In the past couple of months, we visited many churches in and around Karnataka. God Speaks in Various Ways says Rev Shashikala Alva

By God's grace we released Tulu audio Bible (New Testament) at CSI Shanthi Church, Balmatta, Mangalore. On our way back to Bangalore we stopped to buy a can of water, the shop owner happened to be a Christian. We had given him a Tulu audio Bible. He was so happy to receive it. After couple of weeks, we received a message from him which read "Glory to our God, the Lord. We sincerely appreciate you for providing us with the Bible Audio Player. I've handed it to one of my fellow believers. She is illiterate but so happy to have the Bible in the audio format and she blessed the BSI for making every effort to provide the Word of God in a format people can have access to. There are still a lot of uneducated Christians who are eager to hear the Word of God. There is no point in translating, publishing and distributing the Holy Bible if people don't engage with God's Word. The BSI Karnataka





Auxiliary implemented many Scripture Engagement programmes in the State of Karnataka, reaching out to children, suffering women, slum dwellers, special audience and indigenous people.

Pastors' Meet

We conducted seminars for Pastors, Christian leaders, women, youth and children. The Pastors meet in Bangarpet and Gulbarga helped us to discuss various issues pertaining to the Bible translation and partnership with churches.





We conducted one-day retreat for Women in CSI Weigle Memorial Church Bagalkote, CSI Telugu Church Bellary, CSI Hardwicke



Church, and the Central Methodist Church Gulbarga. The Bible-based Trauma Healing session was conducted, which is powerful to heal the wounded hearts. The Bible society of India has trained 10 pastors and theologians from the state of Karnataka to be apprentice facilitators in the field of Trauma Healing. The Bible Exhibition was also organized in CSI Weigle Memorial Church, Bagalkote.

Scripture Engagement through Puppet Show and Bible Quiz

In the month of July, the United Basel Mission Church and the Karnataka Auxiliary had





jointly organized one day Retreat for the Sunday school children. There were around 300 children participating from 13 UBM churches. All the activities such as puppet show, Quiz and sessions on the debates on Bible verses etc., were based on the Biblical values for a growing child. Simultaneously we arranged retreat for Sunday school teachers and the Women. In the month July we had project implementation programmes for children and women in Chandanahalli, KGF organized by the Laymans Evangelical Fellowship Church. We thank Pastor Peter Palathoti for all his support in this regard. We also thank Pastor Alexander and Pastor Prem for the opportunity to minister in their congregations.

Re-Edited Kannada Bible - Our re-editing of Kannada Common Language Bible is under way. It is our desire and dream to see that we will revise the language of Jehovah Version Kannada to enhance the linguistic aspect of the Bible without compromising the Truth.



Auxiliary Building Renovation Work

In the month of July 2023 we had organized a prayer service to begin our Auxiliary Building Renovation Work on the 111 year old building. We invited our General Secretary, all the Directors and Pastors for the program. At this juncture, I sincerely want to thank our President Rt. Rev. Dr. Prasanna Kumar Samuel for initiating the renovation project, our Treasurer Ln. Mr. M.O. Varghese for





his generous contribution, the architect Mr. Jayaprakash Simons who is also the member of the Auxiliary Committee and India Bible Society Trust Association for their contribution in this work.

The 196th Annual Thanksgiving Service

The service was organized at St. Mark's Cathedral on 1st September 2023. Pastors, Donors, Well-wishers, BSI staff and others joined the program which was well appreciated.

In conclusion, we as a team of the Karnataka Auxiliary attest that the changes that have emerged over the past few months have offered





May we continue to give our best to light up the fire of God's Word for strength with actions in the days to come. We thank everyone for your support and we continue to seek your prayer and financial support for the Ministry of the Bible Society especially the on-going renovation work of the Bible House. We will try our best to continue to stand as the light house in the city to show light to the lost. May God bless us all!

us an opportunity to marvel in the beauty of what is possible through teamwork, dedication, and creativity!

“Worry is the darkroom in which negatives can develop”



KERALA AUXILIARY

Mary Jones Women's Fellowship Conference, Valakom

The one-day conference of the Mary Jones Women's Fellowship hosted by BSI Valakom (Kottarakara) Branch took place at St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church, Pullemcode on 4th June 2023 at 3.30pm. The event was presided by the Branch President, Rev Georgie Varghese. The Auxiliary Secretary, Rev. Jacob Antony Koodathinkal inaugurated the meeting and Sister Minitha Thampan gave the Keynote Address. Pastor Cherian Chacko, Rev. Binu C. Samuel, Mr. K. G. Thomas (Branch Secretary), Mr. Joykutty. A. (Branch Treasurer) spoke during the meeting. The members of the Fellowship actively participated in the meeting. We praise God and thank all the Branch members for the exemplary activities of the recently formed Valakom Branch.

Kunnamkulam Branch: 50th Annual Meeting
The 50th Annual Meeting of the Kunnamkulam Branch in Thrissur Region was held on 19th August 2023 at St Paul's CSI Church, Kunnamkulam. Rev. P. G. Thomson chaired the event. The Auxiliary Secretary Rev Antony Koodathinkal delivered the inaugural speech. Rev. Prince Kolady, Rev. Shymon, Dr. Paulson Pulikottil, Mr. Jose Francis (Secretary), Mr.



Laughson K. C. (Treasurer), Mr. Vibin Wilson spoke during the meeting. The first, second and consolation prizes were distributed for the winners and participants in the Bible quiz competition conducted by the Branch. The Diamond, Golden and Silver donors were honoured with certificates and gift Bibles in the meeting. The following Branch Officials Rev. P. G. Thomson (President), Mr. Jose Francis (Secretary), Mr. Laughson K. C. (Treasurer), and other members from various churches were selected in the Branch Committee. The Bible sale and exhibition were also arranged by the staff and Branch members.

The 67th Annual Meeting and Thanksgiving Service

The Bible Society of India Kerala Auxiliary celebrated its 67th Annual Meeting and conducted a Thanksgiving Service on 23rd September 2023, Saturday at the Commander P. E. George Memorial Salvation Army Church, Kowdiar, Trivandrum. The Auxiliary President, Most Rev. Dr. Yuhanon Mar Chrysostomos Metropolitan presided over the meeting. Rev. Dr. Kavito G. Zhimo, BSI General Secretary gave the inaugural speech. He exhorted the gathering, based on the book of Joshua 1:8 of the importance of meditating on the Word and of living in accordance with the Scripture. Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos Episcopa (BSI Executive Committee Member), Rt. Rev. Dr. Oommen George (Auxiliary Vice President), Very Rev. K. Y. Jacob (BSI Executive Committee Member - alternate), Fr. Dr. Reji Mathew (Auxiliary Committee Member), Col. P. John William (Territorial Commander, Salvation Army Church), Rev. M. Mohanan (Synod President, India Evangelical Lutheran Church), Rev. Dr. C. I. David Joy (Principal, KUTS, Trivandrum) and Mrs. Starla Luke (Auxiliary Committee Member) delivered the benedictory speech and felicitation. The Bishops, Clergies, Church



Leaders from various Churches; Auxiliary Committee Members, Regional/Branch Leaders and Members graced the occasion with their presence. The Auxiliary Secretary, Rev. Jacob Antony Koodathinkal presented the Annual Report and the Treasurer, Mr. Jacob John presented the Annual Audited Accounts for the year 2022-2023. During the meeting, special prayer was offered for the victims of violence in Manipur state. The Branches/Regions who have excelled in Resource Mobilisation, the Branches that collected above one lakh rupees and Branches and individuals who excelled in Mary Jones Card collection were also honoured and awarded mementos. The Meeting was blessed with around 500 participants. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all for your blessed presence and leadership. We are grateful to the Program General Convener,



Chev. Dr. Koshy M. George (Central Council Member) for the tireless efforts & effective co-ordination. We acknowledge our gratitude to Lt. Col. Daniel J. Raj (Auxiliary Committee Member), Capt. Jomon Jacob (Corps. Officer), the Church Songsters and all members of the Salvation Army Church for the sincere support and prayers to make the event a blessing. The Bible sale was also arranged and the Auxiliary staff actively participated in the event. As it is the first visit of our General Secretary to the Kerala Auxiliary, the Auxiliary Office Bearers, Committee members and staff welcomed the new GS in the Bible House, Kottayam on 22nd Friday. The General Secretary shared from the Word in the morning staff devotion and had a good time of interaction with the Auxiliary Committee members and Staff. We, as the Auxiliary praise and thank God for His inexpressible gift and all goodness bestowed to us.

Scripture Engagement Program for Youth:

All Kerala Bible Quiz and Elocution Competition 2023 The Bible Society of India, Kerala Auxiliary Elocution Competition in memory of Y. Mathew and Bible Quiz competition were held in a most blessed manner at Mar Elia Cathedral, Kottayam on Saturday, 14th October, 2023. Rev. Jacob Antony Koodathinkal, Auxiliary Secretary, welcomed the gathering and gave an introductory speech. The topic selected for the elocution competition was “Thirst for the Word of God in the time of conflict”, based on the book of Amos 8:11. There were 11 participants for Elocution Competition. The first, second and third prizes for the elocution competition were bagged by Gisna R of Elappara Branch, John Sam Ebenezer of Thiruvalla West Branch and Ashika Mary Jogi of Thodupuzha Branch respectively. The expert Judges for the elocution competition were Rev. Abraham Cherian,



Rev. Renju Varghese Mathew and Adv. Mrs. Susan George. The 2023 Elocution Competition marked the 9th edition since its inception in 2015 and the Bible Quiz Competition was introduced this year. Ten teams from different Branches participated in the Bible quiz competition. Dr. Vijo Kurien, Assistant Professor, CMS College, Kottayam served as the Quiz Master. The biblical questions were selected from the Book of Deuteronomy and the Epistle of James; general questions on the Bible and about the Bible Society were also part of the quiz. The first, second and third prizes for the quiz competition were clinched by Evangel Prasad, Sneha Anil of Chalakudy Branch; Betson K Biju, Hanna Ann Robi, Blessy Anil of Chalakudy Branch; Ann Maria Roy, Dona Jessy Stanly and Annu Roy of Melukavumattom Branch respectively. The presence & leadership of Auxiliary Committee Members Er. John Minu Mathew, Adv. P. V. Cherian; Central Council Member, Er. Mrs. Suja Annie Mathew and Auxiliary staff were greatly appreciated.

NORTH WEST INDIA AUXILIARY

Youth Retreat

The Bible Society of India Youth Retreat brought together a diverse group of over 100 young individuals, each with a unique purpose: to explore their identity in Christ and to unite in their dedication to advancing the Bible cause. This transformative event was hosted at St. Thomas Church, Mandir Marg, on the 23rd of September 2023. The chosen theme, "Identity in Christ," left a profound impact on the lives of





all those who participated. The retreat featured daily Bible study sessions led by experienced speakers. The retreat was inaugurated by Rev. Dr. Suresh Kumar, Presbyterian of St. Thomas Church. This devotion set the spiritual tone for the event, reminding participants of the importance of grounding their identity in Christ. The second session was led by Rev. Gershombhai Khristi, Auxiliary Secretary of the BSI NWIA, focused on the mission of the Bible Society of India to print and translate more Bibles for India. The speaker spoke passionately about raising awareness, seeking sponsorships, fostering partnerships, and encouraging volunteering to support this important mission. It underscored the significance of the retreat in not only deepening the faith of the youth but also in actively contributing to the Bible cause. Bible Study on “Identity in Christ” was facilitated by Mr. Jovin Alexander Matthew. The thought provoking session successfully prompted participants to reflect on various key points, including:

- How well are we grounded in Christ? The session encouraged participants to reflect on the strength of their faith and the depth of their connection with Christ.
- How do we see ourselves? Mr. Matthew challenged the attendees to consider whether they viewed themselves through the lenses of the world, family, friends, or Christ.
- What is our deciding factor? Participants were asked to identify the factors that influenced their self-perception and choices.
- How do we identify ourselves to be? Mr. Matthew stressed that our identity in Christ doesn't change based on our actions. It is rooted in who we are in Him.
- It's WHO WE ARE IN HIM. This statement became a powerful mantra for the retreat, reminding everyone that their ultimate identity and worth are found in Christ.

Worship and Fellowship were a central part of the retreat it gives room for the participants to experience God's presence and strengthen their sense of identity in Christ. With our identity firmly rooted in Christ and a renewed commitment to support the Bible Society's mission, the youth are poised for ongoing spiritual growth and active involvement in furthering the cause of printing and translating more Bibles for India. Heartfelt gratitude was expressed to all the speakers, organizers, and attendees for making this retreat a resounding success. The youth of the Bible Society of India are now equipped with both a strong spiritual foundation and a shared dedication to contributing to the Bible Society's essential work.

Jaipur Pink City Bible Exhibition:

The State of Rajasthan is very important area under BSI, NWIA Region to promote God's Word. Needless to say, promoting God's Word in North Indian State has become challenging for us. Keeping all these challenges in mind we had been praying & planning to conduct the Jaipur Pink City Bible Exhibition. In regard to this Exhibition, we also invited all the Pastors in Jaipur on 27th September 2023 to partner with the Bible Society of India for the Bible Cause. The response from all the Church Pastors was very encouraging and we sincerely appreciate Acharya Vikas Massey and his team for their prayer and financial support for the Jaipur Pink City Bible Exhibition.

From 13th to 16th October 2023 Pink City Bible Exhibition in Jaipur was conducted at St. Andrews Church, Jaipur. The Rt. Revd. Raimson Victor, Bishop of Rajasthan (CNI), Diocese of Rajasthan came all the way from Ajmer and inaugurated the Bible Exhibition in the presence of Christian Leaders and Pastors. During his short message, he shared about the importance of God's Word in our personal life and church ministry.

During these 3 days, we have witnessed and experienced the hunger for God's Word in Jaipur. The response from the Church Community was very encouraging and they approached us to have a Bible Exhibition once every year so that all the Christian community has their own choice of Bible. We also appreciate the full support of Rev. Deepak Baristo, Presbyterian-in-Charge, St. Andrews Church, and Rev. Dr. John Mathew, Director, Emmanuel Bible Institute for their support for this Bible Exhibition.



ODISHA AUXILIARY

Testimonies of Ms Mariyamma

Ms. Mariyamma is a 90 year old who lives in Onukadoli village in an old tin-roof house with a puppy and kitten for company. Each year she eagerly awaits the visit of the BSI Odisha Auxiliary staff, and as a gesture of her support, she presents them with a collection box she keeps for the BSI Ministry. During the staff's visit in June 2023, Ms. Mariyamma handed over the tin box. To everyone's surprise, when they counted the contents, they discovered an impressive sum of Rs.5000/- that she had diligently collected over time. During their conversation, Ms.Mariyamma expressed her heartfelt dedication by contributing whatever monetary support she could manage from savings of the money her relatives gave her.. Let us continue to pray for people like Ms.Mariyamma who selflessly contribute to causes they believe in.



Bible Festival at Chitrakonda, Malkangiri

Chitrakonda village is in Maobadi area in Malkangiri. Last year during our visit to the village, the Christian community of that area requested us to have a Bible Festival in that place. Finally, on June 17, 2023 we conducted a Bible Festival at Beersheba Church in Chitrakonda. In spite of many challenges we had a wonderful time with all the believers. Rev. Manas Ranjan James coordinated the event. Pastor Niranjan Turuk and Mrs. Bharati Turuk shared a powerful message from the Word of God. The believers of Chitrakonda were greatly inspired and thankful for the Bible Festival. All glory to God.



Bible Sunday at JELC Church, Jeypore, Koraput Mr. Ajaya Kumar Behari, Senior Marketing Assistant conducted Bible Sunday at JELC Church, Jeypore, Koraput District on 15th October, 2023. The response from the congregation members was very encouraging. The Scripture exhibition was greatly appreciated resulting in a fruitful contribution and Scripture sales after the church service.



Bible Sunday at JELC Church, Borigumma, Koraput

Bible Sunday was celebrated at JELC Church, Borigumma, Koraput District on 22nd October, 2023. It was a wonderful privilege for Mr. Ajaya Kumar Behari to share the ministry of BSI and the Word of God. Apart from Scripture sales, he had the opportunity to meet and pray with the BSI donors personally



Testimony of Mr. Takri from Borigumma, Koraput

Mr. Takri son of Mrs. Magdalini Takri from Borigumma, Koraput District aged about 45 years was suffering from paralysis for more than 10 years. Despite this his love for the “Bible” is unceasing. His parents passed away due to old age. Mr. Takri gets some help from the Government. He donated Rs.4,900/- out of the meagre help he received from the Government.



Testimony from the Retired couple Mrs. & Mr. Bharat Bhusan Panda, Bangalaguda, Koraput

Elderly couple Mrs. Nalini and Mr. Bharat Bhusan Panda are living in Bangalaguda, Koraput District, their love for the Bible continues to shine in their hearts. Their sacrificial gift of Rs. 44,810/- for the Bible cause will be a blessing to the Bible mission work. Let us then with thankful hearts continue to pray for their good health and strength.



TELANGANA AUXILIARY

We praise our Almighty for giving us the opportunity to touch several lives by providing Scriptures and conducting various programs in Telangana State. The Auxiliary Secretary and the staff visited many places conducting Bible Sundays, Bible sales and Exhibitions. The staff had approached many pastors who had attended the pastors’ meetings and explained to them about the BSI Ministries and encouraged them to contribute towards the Bible cause. With God’s guidance and protection upon each one of them and with their support the programs were completed successfully.

Bible Sundays

Bible Sundays are always a joy for us, as this strengthens the relationship with the churches. Bible Sundays were organized at all denominational churches. In the past few months Bible Sundays and sale of Bibles were conducted at the following churches:



- Prayer Power Church, Ramnagar,
- Ramnagar Baptist Church,
- Faith Baptist Church, Singareni Colony,
- CSI Church, Bellampalli,
- CSI Wesley Church, Warasiguda,
- Bethany Central Church, Maredpally,
- Jerusalem House of Worship, Khammam,
- Sharon Full Gospel Church, Jubilee Hills,
- Hosanna Pentecostal Faith Ministries, Chilkalguda,
- Church of Living God, Borabanda,
- The Indian Pentecostal Church of God, Padmaraonagar,
- Grace Community Baptist Church, Bowenpally,
- Universal Baptist Church, Nagole,
- Baptist Church, South Lalaguda,
- Tree Life Fellowship Church, Alwal,
- Mount Hermon Baptist Church, Adikmet,
- Emmanuel Ministries, Yousufguda,
- Bethel Christian Welfare Society, Saidabad.

Scripture Engagement Programmes

Project 78183, “Empowering Christian Widows and Suffering Women in India Through Churches” for Scripture Engagement



Project were done in various places within the Auxiliary area. Bibles were distributed with the help of our Branch officers where there was a need for the Scriptures in areas of Pedapally District, Karimnagar District, Bhadracalam and Armoor. The branch officers visited many interior places, identified churches, and distributed the Bibles where there was a need for the Scripture with the help of the local Church pastors. The Auxiliary Secretary personally visited many places and distributed the Bibles. People of these churches are impoverished, but their love for Bibles and their support for the Bible cause is commendable. Despite their poverty and challenges, they send their yearly support to the Bible Society. The Bibles we distributed to them are our gratitude for their committed support for the Bible cause.

On 18th June 2023, the Armoor branch officers visited many churches in the interior areas and distributed the Bibles to the needy in and around the Armoor area. Branch officers got an opportunity to experience the grassroot realities through this Scripture engagement program.

On 26th June 2023, the Bhadrachallam branch officers visited interior villages like Chinanallaballi village, Bhadrachalam village, Laxminagaram village, Bandirevi village, Narayanraopeta village, etc., and they distributed the Bibles to the needy with the help of the church pastors.

We are now preparing for the second phase of Scripture engagement with distribution in various remote areas. We thank the CPRRM department and our partner churches for providing and supporting us with Bibles.

Bible Exhibitions:

The Auxiliary had organized district-level Bible Exhibition and sale at Khammam and Mahbubnagar Districts with the help of the Branch officers and Church Committee members. As conducted every year, this year too, it was a privilege to conduct a Bible exhibition cum sale at TPM Convention Centre, Keesara for 4 days. The Auxiliary had conducted Bible exhibition cum sales at various places wherever it was needed.





Annual Branch Officers Thanksgiving Conference

The Auxiliary had conducted one-day Annual Branch Officers Thanksgiving Conference - 2023 with the Theme: Unchanging Word - Translations for Transformation. For this annual program all BSI branch officers from different parts of Telangana State had participated and shared their joy on many new upcoming projects of Telangana Auxiliary.



National President and General Secretary's Visit to Telangana Auxiliary

Rev. Dr. Leelavathi Vemuri – President BSI, Rev. Dr. Kavito G. Zhimo, and Mrs. G Zhimo, visited Telangana Auxiliary from 27 to 29 October 2023. On 28 October, the General Secretary met the Auxiliary officers and staff in the Bible House. He spoke to the staff on how to use this God-given opportunity and work diligently for the Bible Cause and for the growth of BSI Ministry. He later visited the Bhoiguda property where we have our admin office and Bible showroom. Mr. John Stephen, Director Property Management accompanied and explained about different workspaces in the auxiliary.





In the evening Rev. Dr. Leelavathi Vemuri, BSI National President and Rev. Dr. Kavito G. Zhimo General Secretary BSI released the Telugu Transliterated Bible at Centenary Baptist Church, Secunderabad. There was a huge gathering of 750 plus youngsters. The Bible was released with prayers and the blessings of Madam President and the General Secretary. The First copies were handed over to Dr. Sanjay A. Paul – Auxiliary President TS, Rev. B. Winston Treasurer TS, and Rev. Vikram, Secretary AP. Rev. Dr. Leelavathi Vemuri, BSI National President appreciated the Telangana Auxiliary team for transliterating the Telugu Bible into English as it will be a great help for the youngsters both in metropolitan cities and in the Diaspora. Dr. Kavito G. Zhimo, General Secretary BSI appreciated the Auxiliary officers and thanked the transliteration team for their laborious work. The transliteration team and a few of the prime donors were acknowledged and felicitated. All the participants received a free copy of the newly released Bible. Testimonies of the youngsters and children were collected.

On 29th October Rev. Dr. Kavito G. Zhimo, General Secretary shared the message at St. John the Baptist church in Secunderabad on the theme – ‘Reformation Day’. The Auxiliary was blessed with the National officers’ visits. On behalf of the Auxiliary officers, Committee members, and Staff of Telangana Auxiliary, heartfelt thanks was extended to the National President and General Secretary for their visit.

TAMIL NADU AUXILIARY

Madurai Branch Meeting

The BSI Madurai Area Branch Meeting was held at CSI, Cathedral Narimedu, Madurai on 19th Saturday May 2023. About 100 people participated in this Branch meeting. It was arranged by Rev. P. Chelliah, Branch Secretary, Madurai. The meeting started at 10.30 a.m. Our Branch Secretary Rev. P. Chelliah shared about his 52 years of volunteer service for the BSI ministry (from the time of the former TN Auxiliary Secretary Rev. Boobalan from 1971 - 2023) till now.



We conducted a Bible quiz program during the meeting. All the participants eagerly took part in the Bible quiz competition. Rev. P. Moses Devadason, Sr. Auxiliary Secretary of the Tamilnadu Auxiliary shared the Word of God and encouraged the participants to involve more actively in the ministry of the BSI.

Rev. D. Manogar, Sr. Marketing Assistant and Mr. J. Suresh Kumar, Marketing Assistant shared about the Tamil Bible Translation History and introduced the BSI Scriptures. The meeting came to a close with fellowship lunch at 1.30 p.m.

On Sunday 21st May 2023, we observed Bible Service, our Sr. Auxiliary Secretary, Rev. P. Moses Devadason shared God's message at CSI Cathedral Church, Narimedu, Madurai in the 7.00 am and 9.00 am Services. Rev. D. Manogar shared God's message at CSI West Gate Church, Madurai and Mr. J. Suresh Kumar at CSI Racharyapuram Church.

National Bible Fair 2023 at Palayamkottai

On May 12th – 14th 2023, BSI National Bible Fair was held at Palayamkottai, CSI Tirunelveli Diocesan Centenary Hall. We would like to thank our Mr. Paul Stephen – Publishing & Marketing Director and his team for their great help and encouragement. The National Bible Fair was inaugurated by the CSI Tirunelveli Bishop the Rt. Rev. Dr. ARGST Barnabas on 12th Friday at 10.30 a.m. In that inaugural function many Pastors, Branch Officers, Bookshop proprietors and Managers and our Bible Supporters participated. Many varieties of Bibles, Children's materials in different languages were exhibited.

On Saturday 13th, from 11.00 a.m to 1.00 p.m we had Tirunelveli Area Branch Officers Meeting. Mr. Paul Stephen shared about the present challenges in the Printing and Marketing (ministry) field. The Tamilnadu Sr.



Auxiliary Secretary Rev. P. Moses Devadason encouraged the participants to increase their involvement in a meaningful way according to the present situations

Bible Sunday was observed at CSI Christ Church, Military lane, Palayamkottai at 7.30 a.m in the English Service. Mr. Paul Stephen shared the ministry of the BSI and the Auxiliary Secretary Rev. P. Moses Devadason shared the Word at 9.00 a.m. in Tamil Service. The Auxiliary Marketing staff shared God's word at CSI Trinity Church, Palayamkottai, and CSI MKB Nagar Church and at CSI Armed Forced Campus Church in Palayamkottai. We express our sincere gratitude for their voluntary commitment to the Bible cause.



Thirappin Vasal Jebam (Prayer)

On 24th June, 2023 from 9.00 am to 3.00 p.m “Thirappin Vasal Jebam (Prayer)” was held at Jesus Redeems Church, Nalumavadi. Mr. J Suresh Kumar, our Marketing Assistant, shared about the Formation of Bible Society (Mary Jones Story), Missionary Bartholomew Ziegenbalg, a German Missionary (Tamil Bible History story) and BSI Ministries, Translation, Production and Distribution & Braille Bible for Visually Challenged People in the “Thirappin Vasal Jebam”.

A handsome amount of “Retiring Offertory” was collected in that meeting. We thank Evangelist Brother Mohan C. Lazarus of Jesus Redeems Church for motivating his congregation to support this vital ministry.

Visit of the General Secretary

The BSI General Secretary Rev. Dr. Kavito G. Zhimo visited BSI Tamil Nadu Auxiliary on 25th July 2023. He was accompanied by Mr. John Stephen, Director (Property Management). The Staff meeting was very encouraging as we had a great time conversing with our General Secretary.





Branch Officers Conference

On 29th & 30th of August 2023 the Auxiliary conducted Branch Officers Conference at Jeeva Jothi Ashram, Coimbatore. On the first day, morning devotion was led by Rev. Samson, Presbyterian in-charge CSI, Madras Diocese. The Sr. Auxiliary Secretary Rev. P. Moses Devadason, welcomed the gathering. The Keynote Address was delivered by Rev. Dr. John Samuel, (Retd.) Principal of Gurukul Theological College, Chennai. His message was on the Topic "Come and Learn together from the Word of God". The BSI Associate Director Media and Special Audience Mr. Caleb Martin Hilton shared on Christian responsibility to the Visually Challenged People specifically for the Braille Ministries through Power Point Presentation. Mr. Arul Prakash, Head Master, ELM, Sr. Sec. School, Purasawalkam, Chennai took a session on the Christian responsibilities towards the ministry of the BSI. Rev. D. Rajadurai (Retd.) Presbyterian-in-charge, CSI Trchy - Tanjore Diocese led the devotion on the second day. Special session for Youth & Women was led by Mr. Ashok from Neyyoo and he shared about the Youth activities around Kanyakumari Districts. Mrs. Ratna Sundar (Gudalur), Mrs. Anbut Hepzibah (Tirunelveli) and Dr. Mrs. E. Jeyamangalam (Prof. STC College, Palayamkottai) shared about the contributions and involvement of women in the ministry of the BSI



CENTRAL OFFICE

THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF INDIA DEPARTMENT OF CHURCH, PUBLIC RELATIONS & RESOURCE MOBILISATION OBSERVANCE OF SPECIAL DAYS

The Religious Affairs Committee of The Bible Society of India takes care of the spiritual aspect of the staff of the Bible Society of India across its 17 Auxiliaries, Translation Centre, Shillong and the Central Office. God has given us the technology to connect with all our staff spread across the nation virtually. We celebrate these special days as Combined Prayer Fellowship and at times in our respective offices.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY – June 5, 2023

World Environment Day has been held annually since 1973, every year on June 5. It has grown to be the largest global platform for environmental outreach. The theme for this year was “Beat Plastic Pollution.” Rev. Dr. Rohan Gideon, Professor – Christian Theology from the United Theological College, Bangalore



was the speaker for the day. A meaningful order of service was prepared by the BSI Jabalpur Auxiliary. We sought God’s blessing to give us grace that we may exercise stewardship of this earth; tread lightly upon it; and cherish its resources; that our children may enjoy its riches, for all generations to come.



TRIBAL AND ADIVASI DAY – August 9, 2023

The International Day of the World’s Indigenous peoples was first pronounced by the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 1994. It was later decided to observe this day on August 9th every year. Change is an inevitable and constant force that shapes our lives. It is a catalyst for growth, innovation and progress. People as agents of change are challenged to adapt, learn and evolve, pushing them out of their comfort zones and into new territories. The Hour has come for the indigenous communities to be increasingly recognized as powerful agents of change. With unique perspectives, resilience, and commitment to the cultural heritage, youth hold the potential to emerge as catalysts for positive social transformation. By being the key stakeholders with the pursuit of self-determination indigenous youth can contribute to revitalization of their languages, cultures, and self-governance, for the enrichment of our society.

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Rev. Dr. Kavito G Zhimo, General Secretary, The Bible Society of India was the speaker for the day. He spoke about the importance of 'Youth as Agents of Change.' Special prayers were offered for the youth, for peace to prevail in Manipur and forest conservation issues. We believe in the unity and collaboration among all citizens in India and stand in solidarity with all who seek justice, reconciliation and upliftment of marginalized communities. We believe in the healing and restoration of our land and ecosystems. We renewed our commitment to be agents of change, striving for self-determination, justice and liberation for Tribal and Adivasi Communities in India. The order of service was prepared by the

and other issues. On 17th December 1999, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, and International Youth Day was formed. Since then International Youth Day is observed every year to mobilize and educate youth in politics and management of resources to address global issues. The theme for 2023 is, "Green Skills for Youth - Towards a Sustainable World."

This day was observed in all our offices during the Morning Prayer. We thanked God for the life of youth and sought God's grace upon them as they face challenges and opportunities in their day to day lives. We prayed to God to instil wisdom that they will be able to choose the right path.



Department of Church, Public Relations & Resource Mobilisation in collaboration with the National Council of Churches in India.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY – August 11, 2023
International Youth Day was initially conceptualized by young people at the World Youth Forum in Vienna, Austria in 1991. Then on the 12th August 1998, the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for youth, adopted the resolution that youth should participate in development, peace-making, education





CELEBRATION OF THE 77TH INDEPENDENCE DAY OF OUR NATION INDIA

The Bible Society of India celebrated the Indian Independence Day in all its offices across the nation. In Bangalore, the flag hoisting was done by Rev. Dr. W. Along Jamir, Director Translation in front of William Carey Centre at the Hall Road Office. He gave a brief reflection from God's Word. Interspersory prayer was offered. All the Central Office staff participated enthusiastically.





‘WILLIAM CAREY’ DAY – August 17, 2023

William Carey, often referred to as the “Father of Modern Missions,” was born in 1761 in a humble village in England. From his early years, he displayed an insatiable curiosity and a deep sense of purpose. His journey took him from being a shoemaker to becoming a renowned linguist, scholar, and missionary trailblazer. Carey championed the idea that the Gospel message should reach every corner of the world. He famously declared, “Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God.” This rallying cry epitomized his ethos of unwavering faith and determination.

One of Carey’s most significant contributions was his pioneering efforts in linguistic studies and Bible translation. Recognizing the power of language in conveying the depth of God’s message, Carey dedicated himself to mastering multiple languages, including Sanskrit and Bengali. His translation work extended beyond the written word; it was a bridge connecting diverse cultures to the life-changing truths of the Gospel. In 1793, Carey and his fellow missionaries embarked on an arduous journey to India, a land of unfamiliar languages, customs, and challenges. He translated the Bible into several Indian languages, contributing immensely to the accessibility of Scripture for countless people. He laid the foundation for modern missions by establishing schools, advocating for social reforms, and fostering the growth of indigenous leadership within the local communities. His holistic approach to mission work demonstrated his deep understanding of the interconnectedness of spiritual and societal transformation.

In the 1811 February 21, due to the heavy workload and increasing demand on Bible translation into many Indian languages, William Carey's translation mission work was handed over to the British and Foreign Bible Society in Calcutta, entitled "The Calcutta Auxiliary Bible Society" with the same objectives as those in London. Hence the responsibility of Bible translation, printing and distribution is in the hand of the Bible Society of India. We observed this day in our respective offices and special prayers were offered for the Bible translators. We are thankful to the BSI Calcutta Auxiliary for preparing the order of service.

INDIAN CHRISTIAN WITNESS DAY

August 23, 2023

"Christians in India are unique." Delivering the first Stanley Samartha Memorial lecture in October 2001 in Bangalore, Francois Gautier said, "Christians in India are unique." Not only did the first Christian community in the World establish itself in India, but before the arrival of Jesuits with Vasco De Gama in the 16th century, they developed an extraordinary religious pluralism, adopting some of the local customs while retaining their faith in Christ. Even though they constitute less than 3% of the population, they wield enormous influence in India, mainly through education, as many of India's top educational institutions are Christian. Additionally, Christian hospitals and nursing homes provide quality care."

"The most precious freedom that Indian Christians enjoy is holding Jesus Christ as their Savior, as the Son of God, as the 'only true divinity.' It is their absolute right to cherish that belief. However, when Christianity attempts to impose this belief of the only one true God—Jesus Christ—on the world, it encroaches upon the freedom of others. The belief in the exclusivity of our God as the real one, and all others being false, is at the root of many misunderstandings, wars, and terrorism."

Dr. John Dayal, Human Rights Activist, Commentator in Print and on Television was the guest speaker. The entire Bible Society of India met virtually. We had live testimonies by Mr. Lamalmoi Gangte from BSI Aizawl Auxiliary and Mr. Khongsai from BSI Dimapur Auxiliary. Special prayers were offered for the restoration of peace in the State of Manipur. We are thankful to BSI Northwest India Auxiliary who prepared the order of service.

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY

September 8, 2023

It is a global observance that highlights the importance of literacy as a fundamental human right and a catalyst for social and economic development. Established by UNESCO in 1966.





This day aims to raise awareness about the challenges of illiteracy and the transformative power of education.

The theme of International Literacy Day varies each year, addressing diverse aspects of literacy and education. Through workshops, seminars, and awareness campaigns, this occasion brings together governments, organizations, and communities to advocate for increased literacy rates and enhanced educational opportunities worldwide. This year we celebrate International Literacy Day under the theme “Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies.”

Alongside promoting literacy, this day also highlights the significance of Bible translation initiatives. These endeavors bridge the language gaps, allowing diverse communities to engage with the Bible, fostering spiritual growth and cultural understanding. This day serves as a reminder that literacy, including access to translated Bible texts, is a powerful catalyst for personal empowerment, social development, and the advancement of human potential. This day stands as a testament to the enduring impact of literacy, affirming its ability to elevate humanity through knowledge and faith.

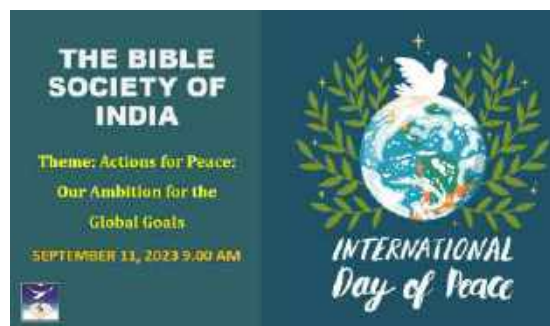
The Bible Society of India is already in the literacy initiative called “Saksharata.” We prayed that this collaborative effort brings light to the lives of countless individuals in India, fostering

literacy, knowledge and empowerment. It is very significant to the Bible Society family as we are involved in the translation of God’s Word and the power of literacy continues to resonate in our hearts. We are thankful to the BSI Media and Special Audience for preparing a meaningful order of service.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

September 11, 2023

Each year the International Day of Peace (IDP) is observed around the world on 21 September. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. This year’s theme is “Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the Global Goals.” It is a call to action that recognizes our individual and collective responsibility to foster peace. Fostering peace contributes to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals which will create a culture of peace for all.



United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said, “Peace is needed today more than ever. War and conflict are unleashing devastation, poverty, and hunger, and driving tens of millions of people from their homes. Climatic chaos is all around. And even peaceful countries are gripped by gaping inequalities and political polarization.” Together we can help to lead our world towards a greener, more equitable, just, and secure future for all. After meditating from Isaiah 11:1-9 and John 14:26-27 on the theme “Be peacemakers through action.” We are thankful to the BSI Kerala Auxiliary for preparing the order of service. We observed this day in our respective offices across the nation.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SIGN LANGUAGE AND TRANSLATION’S DAY September 29, 2023

The Bible Society of India has decided to observe these two special days, namely, the International Day of Sign Language and the International Translation Day on the same day. This decision has its own significance because sign language is one aspect of the translation

Theme for International Day of Sign Language Celebration 2023

A World Where Deaf People Everywhere Can **Sign Anywhere**



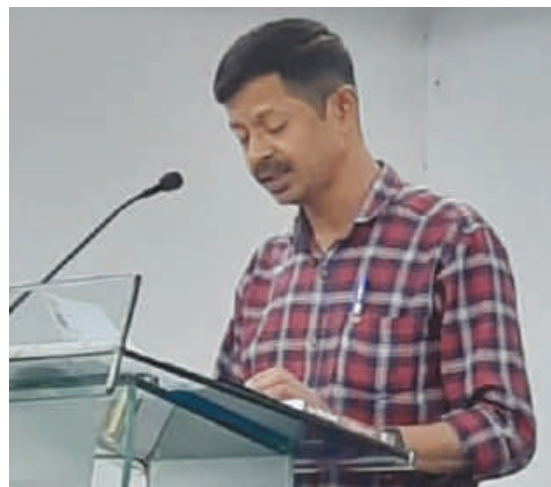
of texts and it is a form of communication just like the translated texts. Besides, these two days are separated only by a week and the themes of these days for 2023 are also very closely related “We Sign to Unveil the Many Faces of Humanity through Bible Translation.”

We incorporated the call to worship, prayer of affirmation, prayer of thanksgiving and intercession during the service. The respective offices observed this day. We are thankful to the BSI Translation Department for preparing a meaningful and a blessed order of service.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY October 10, 2023

It is an opportunity for people and communities to unite behind the theme, “Mental Health is a Universal Human Right” to improve knowledge, raise awareness and drive actions that promote and protect everyone’s mental health as a universal human right. The Bible Society of India under its projects and Scripture Engagement programmes partners with many agencies for Bible Advocacy.

This day was dedicated to the cause of victims of mental health. All the BSI Offices across the nation observed this day and were encouraged to pray for the cause.



WORLD SIGHT DAY – October 13, 2023

The eyes, often referred to as the windows to the soul, are undoubtedly one of the most precious gifts that God has bestowed upon us. They are the jewel of the body that speaks out when the lips fear to deliver. In recognition of this priceless gift and the pressing need to protect and restore it, World Sight Day has emerged as a global call to action.

World Sight Day holds profound relevance in our lives, transcending geographic and cultural boundaries. It aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by addressing crucial aspects of human well-being, such as education, employment, quality of life, poverty and certainly, for us, the Bible Society of India, translation and Scripture engagement. It empowers individuals to access education, secure gainful employment, enjoy a better quality of life, and overcome the clutches of poverty. In our interconnected world, these outcomes resonate deeply with our shared commitment to building a just and equitable society.



The theme for this year is “Love Your Eyes at Work.” We observed this day in all our offices across the nation. We prayed for those facing visual challenges for healing, comfort, and hope. We sought strength for families and caregivers supporting loved ones with visual challenges. We sought for God’s guidance, to help the Church, organizations and individuals working diligently to improve eye care among people and communities. We sought God’s forgiveness for taking our vision for granted.

We asked God for special blessing on the efforts of the Bible Society of India as we produce Braille Bibles for the visually challenged. May your Word shine brightly in the darkness, bringing hope, faith, and the knowledge of your love to those who cannot see.

REFORMATION DAY: October 30, 2023

Reformation Day, October 31st 2023 was the 506th anniversary of the day Martin Luther posted his Ninety-five Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. It is considered to be one of the most important events in the history of Christianity. The Reformation also known as the Protestant Reformation brought an end to the ecclesiastical unity of medieval Christianity in Western Europe and largely reshaped the course of modern history of Christianity. The upheaval broke the hold of the medieval Church in Europe, allowing the development of personal interpretations of the Christian message leading to the evolution of modern nation-





states. Significantly, the Reformation brought the development of printing technology which further helped spread the Reformation. The Bible, which had been available only in Latin, was translated into local languages. The rate of literacy improved drastically as Protestants were inspired to read the Bible for themselves and education became a higher priority. The printing press and books produced en masse became more central to society. Democratic ideals became highly acceptable.



The speaker for the day was Rev. Dr. Joseph Prabhakar Dayam, Professor, Christian Theology & Ethics, Gurukul Lutheran Theological College & Research Institute. He spoke about the significance of reformation not only in the historical context but in the contemporary context. We express our heartfelt thanks to Dr. Prabhakar. After the message, we spent time on intercessory prayer for our nation, the Church and for the world peace. We are grateful to the Shillong Auxiliary for preparing the Order of Worship for the day.

leaders with Biblical and mental health resources for traumatized people to experience the life-changing Message of the Bible. The core programme is based on a workbook called “Healing the Wounds of Trauma.” It provides basic mental health concepts within a Biblical framework, using Scripture passages and composite real-life stories to help people connect the teaching with their circumstances. The programme uses a cyclical process that builds on leadership development and evaluation. Selected participants are invited to become leaders for future sessions – an intentional multiplier effect.

SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT THROUGH TRAUMA HEALING

We are thankful to God for enabling us to complete the Initial Equipping Session of Trauma Healing for the Southern Zone. The department of Church, Public Relations and Resource Mobilisation is spearheading the ministry of Trauma Healing for the BSI. The initial Equipping session equips local Church

The Initial Equipping Session of the Trauma Healing Session for the Southern Zone was held from September 25 – 29, 2023 in Yercaud, Tamil Nadu. The four Auxiliaries namely, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh sent their volunteers and staff to the session. We thank our facilitators such as Mrs. Olita Chandra, EFICOR, Delhi, Rev. Shashikala Alva, Auxiliary Secretary, BSI Karnataka Auxiliary, Mr. Bichtrananda Rout, CPRRMD Staff, Mr. Binhum Timung, volunteer from BSI Dimapur

Auxiliary and Rev. Sudhakara Raju, Manager, CPRRMD.

A short reflection from Psalm 46 was given and the participants were engaged with the Scripture. Ice-breaking and getting to know their tables were very creative. The participants got to know each other with the exercise. Participants representing four Auxiliaries took part in praise and adoration every morning before the session. They were able to bring out their hidden pain to the cross

and hands-on experience was given for table facilitation. The whole programme was designed with 6 core lessons. Every participant actively participated in all the sessions and was well connected spiritually and emotionally with the healing process. Table discussions were very enriching with deep Scripture engagement. Practical as well as written tests were conducted for all the participants. The participants, especially pastors of various denominations were convinced to integrate the ministry of Trauma Healing into their Church life.

FAREWELL TO MR. ASHITH EZEKIEL

On June 30th, 2023 at 4:00 pm, the Central office staff of BSI gathered together in William Carey Centre, Hall Road Office to express our heartfelt gratitude and bid farewell to a good leader, Mr. E. Ashith, Senior Director of the Production Department. After an astounding 40 years of dedicated service to BSI, Mr. Ashith will embark on a new chapter in his life. This occasion not only allows us to celebrate his exceptional career but also enables us to acknowledge the immense impact he has made on BSI. Beyond his professional achievements, Mr. Ashith's warm and approachable demeanor has endeared him to colleagues across all levels of the organization. It was wonderful to have his family members in our midst.

On behalf of the BSI family, Rev Dr. Kavito G. Zhimo, the General Secretary presented Mr. E. Ashith with a shawl, gift, and memento. Mr. Paul Stephen and Mr. George Samuel gave a wonderful tribute to him. Also, a special gift was given to him by Rev Sudhakara Raju on behalf of the Staff Welfare Association of Central Office Staff. The BSI choir rendered a meaningful farewell song. The programme was beautifully led by Mr Pradeep Kumar Suna. Mrs. Gladys Loganathan offered a word of prayer for Mr. E. Ashith and Rev. Dr. Along Jamir closed the programme with prayer and benediction.



FAREWELL TO MR. JAMES MANI

A farewell was organised for Mr. James Mani on September 28, 2023 at BSI William Carey Centre. Mr. James Mani faithfully completed 37.8 years of service in the Bible Society of India. Mr. Dot Rajan welcomed everyone and Mrs. Renita Kiran offered the opening prayer of thanksgiving. Remembering the faithfulness of God, we all sang the hymn – “Great is Thy faithfulness.” Mrs. Anita Margret read the Scripture portion from Psalm 91. Mr. Tinku George, Director Finance and Mr. Gyana Ranjan Samal, Assistant Director, Finance offered the tribute. The BSI Choir rendered a special song for the occasion. Rev. Dr. Kavito G Zhimo, General Secretary, BSI presented the gift, memento and shawl. A special memento and gift was presented to Mr. James Mani from the Staff Welfare Association of the Central Office.

Mr. Mani was born in a family of different faith. At a young age he ran away from his home and travelled alone to Andaman & Nicobar Islands and started working in a Christian Institution. While he was lost in a thick forest, he encountered the Lord Jesus Christ and surrendered his life to Him. In response Mr. James Mani thanked the Almighty God for His faithfulness in leading him to the Bible Society of India. His life’s journey has impacted many in his family, Church and workplace. He and his wife Mrs. Jebamani have been blessed with a daughter and a son.

Rev. Dr. N. Subramani, Associate Director, Translation offered the closing prayer and pronounced the benediction.



“Be ye fishers of men – you catch them
and He’ll clean them”



NATIONAL LEADERS SUMMIT 2023

Mr. George Samuel and Mr. Binu Aby Mathew had the privileged of representing the Bible Society of India at the National Leaders Summit – of India Missions Association (IMA) held at Nagpur from August 28th to 31st, 2023. We extend our gratitude to our General Secretary Rev. Dr. Kavito G Zhimo, for granting us permission to attend this event. During the summit we had the opportunity to listen to inspiring testimonies of how God has been ministering to His people in various ways throughout the country. It was a truly remarkable experience as God’s servants from different languages and cultures came together for praise and prayer. The Resource persons delivered challenging messages that urged the participants to introspect on their relationship with God, guiding them back onto the right track. We also had the opportunity to witness the true depth of the saying “Bible Society handmaid of the Church” as Bible Society of India provides God’s Word in the heart language of various language groups serving as an invaluable support to God’s Ministry.

EMPOWERING WORD: THE BRAILLE AND AUDIO SCRIPTURES

In a world where access to the Bible is often taken for granted, the Bible Society of India (BSI) is making remarkable progress in ensuring that sacred Scriptures are within reach for everyone, including those with visual impairments. This report provides an overview of BSI’s significant accomplishments and ongoing initiatives, from the successful finalization of Braille Bibles to

the development of Tactile Children’s Bibles and the expansion of Audio Scriptures.



Proofreading and Dedication of Braille Bibles
BSI’s recent achievement in the production of Braille Bibles underscores their unwavering commitment to making the Bible accessible to individuals with visual challenges. The organisation had meticulously reviewed and corrected seven Braille Bibles. These sacred texts were then printed marking a pivotal milestone in their mission.

The Braille Bibles were released and dedicated in a special program on 14th November 2023. They were dedicated to make them available to the Church and to those who are visually

impaired to ensure their active engagement with the Word. These Braille Bibles will serve as a source of comfort and empowerment for the visually challenged community, enabling them to independently read and connect with their beliefs.

Tactile Children's Bibles for Indian Languages

The collaborative effort between the Bible Society of India and the PVD team has given rise to a promising initiative - the development of Tactile Children's Bibles. Acknowledging the necessity for visually challenged children to grow in their faith from an early age, this project represents a crucial stride toward inclusivity and equality. Tactile Children's Bible, designed in a number of Indian languages, enables children to grasp and absorb the Bible's teachings through the sense of touch, offering a hands-on, engaging, and inclusive approach to faith education.

These tactile editions ensure that children, regardless of their visual abilities, can actively participate in their faith journey from a

young age. The use of varied Indian languages broadens accessibility, making it easier for children to connect with and comprehend the profound teachings encapsulated in the Bible.

Tactile Children's Bibles will be crafted in various Indian languages, ensuring that children can learn and comprehend the teachings of the Bible through tactile experiences. BSI's dedication to this project underscores their commitment to making faith a tangible and accessible experience for all, even from a young age.



A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing”

BUDGET WORKSHOP-2023

The Budget workshop of the Bible Society of India for revising the Budget for the FY 2022-23 and formulating the Budget for the FY 2024-25 was held on 4-6 October 2023. All the auxiliaries presented their plans finalized in the APW in financial terms and presented. The Budget workshop gave more clarity on the financial aspects of the Bible Society of India.



BIBLE ARCHIVES:

Within the month of July to December 2023, we have had over 250 visitors to our Bible Archives, comprising of individuals and groups. We welcome the Sunday School children, church communities, individuals, pilgrims, tourist, etc. to come and visit the Bible archives to take you through on the Bible journey any time from Monday to Friday between 9:30 am to 5:00 pm.



Here is a brief report from Pastor Ebenezer David, Chaplain and Practice Ministry Coordinator of ACTS Academy of Higher Education, Bangalore for their visit. They had an amazing experience to witness the hard work behind the origin and development of the Bible through a display of Bible history charts, pictorial explanations, Bible translations and versions, writing materials used in biblical times, and short details on translators, etc.

Their time spent was enriching, informative, and life-building. Through their rich journey in the Archives, they encourage all churches, Christian leaders, and organizations to set aside time to visit Bible Archives in groups, as colleagues, believers, or even as a church to foster reverence for the word of God.

“Never give
the devil
a ride he
will always
want to drive”

FAMOUS NAMES OF THE BIBLE

WORD PUZZLE ASCENDING AND DESENDING ORDER

E	W	Z	H	P	E	S	O	J	R	K	A	W	L	T
V	M	W	N	U	S	N	R	C	E	X	H	D	X	C
E	X	O	A	N	Y	E	S	J	T	O	M	E	A	Z
B	A	X	G	H	D	T	S	T	E	J	O	B	L	M
H	P	W	G	A	V	L	P	O	P	S	P	S	U	Q
S	M	W	Y	I	B	A	G	U	M	A	U	A	A	A
N	M	E	Y	M	F	R	A	B	N	B	X	S	P	E
M	Q	H	R	E	A	Y	I	V	U	R	H	Q	L	B
A	K	T	A	R	F	H	I	E	K	A	Q	U	L	C
Z	L	T	M	E	L	T	I	H	L	H	J	R	G	L
M	L	A	B	J	E	O	I	X	T	A	B	T	I	Z
A	U	M	O	L	I	M	D	W	H	M	N	X	S	P
R	K	M	C	S	N	I	I	E	E	N	F	W	A	J
K	E	L	A	J	A	T	V	D	I	V	A	D	A	Q
W	P	Y	J	A	D	F	Z	K	J	Z	U	Y	C	Z

ABRAHAM

ADAM

DANIEL

DAVID

ELIJAH

EVE

GABARIEL

ISSAC

JACOB

JEREMIAH

JESUS

JOB

JOSEPH

LUKE

MARK

MARY

MATTHEW

MOSES

NOAH

PAUL

PETER

TIMOTHY

REMEMBERING WITH THANKSGIVING
OUR DEAR ONES WHO HAVE GONE TO BE WITH THE LORD

“The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.” – Psalm 9:9

Rev. Moni Das, father of Mr. Deepak Kumar Das colleagues of Calcutta Auxiliary of BSI was called home at the age of 94 on 11th August, 2023

Rev. Fr. Cheriyan Chakkalakkal Cor Episcopa, President of the BSI Palakad Branch, Kerala Auxiliary, was called home at the age of 71 on 14th November, 2023



Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year Wishes
from The General Secretary
and Staff of
The Bible Society of India

ONLINE DONATION- UPI ID's



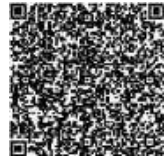
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AUXILIARY



ALLAHABAD
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